USA $12.99 Europe €9.95 UK £8.30 2013#6 www.newinchess.com

NEW IN CHESS

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave explains his Biel victory

Mickey Adams stars in Dortmund anniversary

Anish Giri keeps his word in Beijing GP

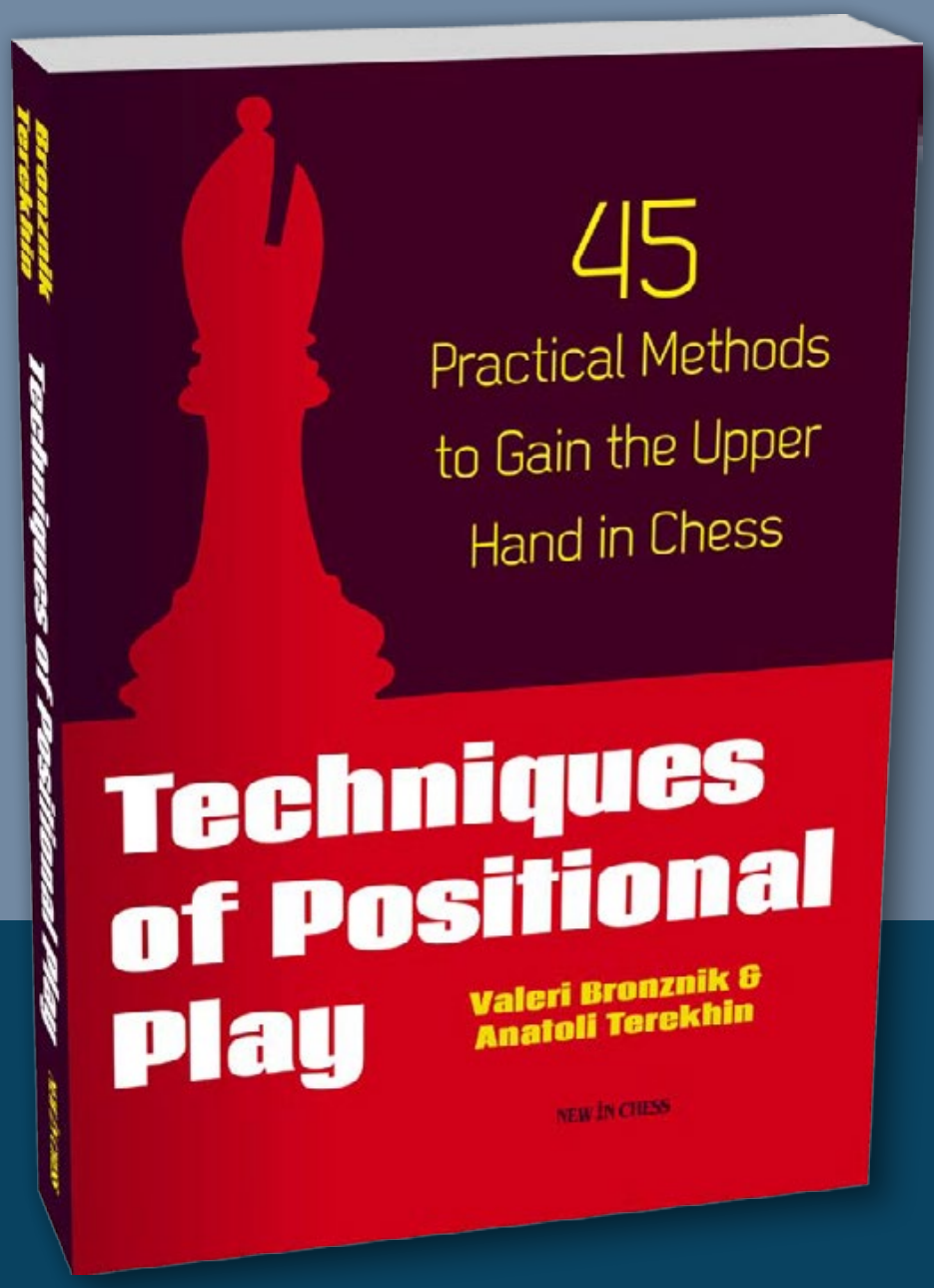
Che Guevara

A Revolutionary's Passion for Chess

ISBN 978-90-5691-413-4

JAN TIMMAN ON THE POLITIKEN CUP ★ MATTHEW SADLER'S GUIDE TO THE WINAWER ★ JUST CHECKING ALEXANDER IPATOV

The improved edition of a Russian classic, finally available in English


45
Practical Methods to Gain the Upper Hand in Chess
Techniques of Positional Play
Valeri Bronznik & Anatoli Terekhin
NEW IN CHESS

NEW!

Some of the techniques offer solutions for problems that club players are often only subconsciously aware of, such as:

- How do you restrict the efficacy of your opponent's pieces?
- What is the best way to exchange a piece?
- How do you prevent your opponent from opening a file?
- Which rook belongs on which file?
- How do you castle artificially?
- and much more

The techniques are easy to understand and memorize because of the great number of practical examples and the special training section.

Paperback • 254 pages • € 24.95 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com • a NEW IN CHESS publication

Meet the newest addition to our family

The Books & Files App

For iPad, iPhone and iPod touch

Ever wished you could just tap on the moves in your chess book and they would play themselves on the board? Ever sighed at having to reset the board after analysing a position from your book? Ever read a chess book in bed, in the train or on a plane and wished you had a board to better understand the author's ideas and concepts? With the New In Chess Books & Files App no more pieces will be rolling on the floor! You can read our books anywhere, without a set, following every move simultaneously on the built-in board. Our interactive books install in seconds on your iPad, are complete, have all the right features, are amazingly simple to operate, are competitively priced and will make reading, studying and training so much easier and more effective. Have a look in the AppStore and keep watching: from now on we will be adding new books or files every two weeks.

Read our books on the iPad: the easy way to study chess

Download the FREE **New In Chess Books & Files App** in the iTunes App Store
Or take a peak at www.newinchess.com

2013 Issue 6

NEW IN CHESS

PUBLISHER: Allard Hoogland EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam, Jan Timman

6 Your Move

8 NIC's Café

10 Dortmund
As Dortmund celebrated 40 years of international top-level chess, Vladimir Kramnik was the obvious star to watch. On any given day, the Russian's score would have sufficed for an eleventh trophy, but not at the 41st Sparkassen Chess Meeting, where 41-year-old Mickey Adams baffled friend and foe, and himself, with a dream score of 7 out of 9.

28 Che and Chess
When you think of Ernesto ('Che') Guevara, your mind probably leaps to the famous images of the revolutionary – the beard, the cigar, and the final photograph after his assassination in Bolivia in 1967. Few, perhaps, would picture him at the chessboard. Yet chess was one of his great passions.

38 The Same Excellent Fish
Jan Timman returned to the Politiken Cup and immediately felt at home again.

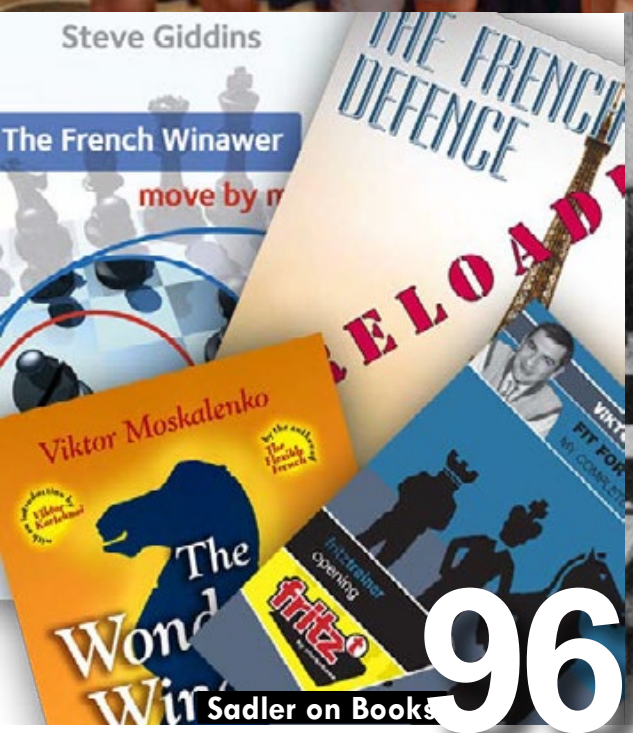
43 Beware: Brilliancy!

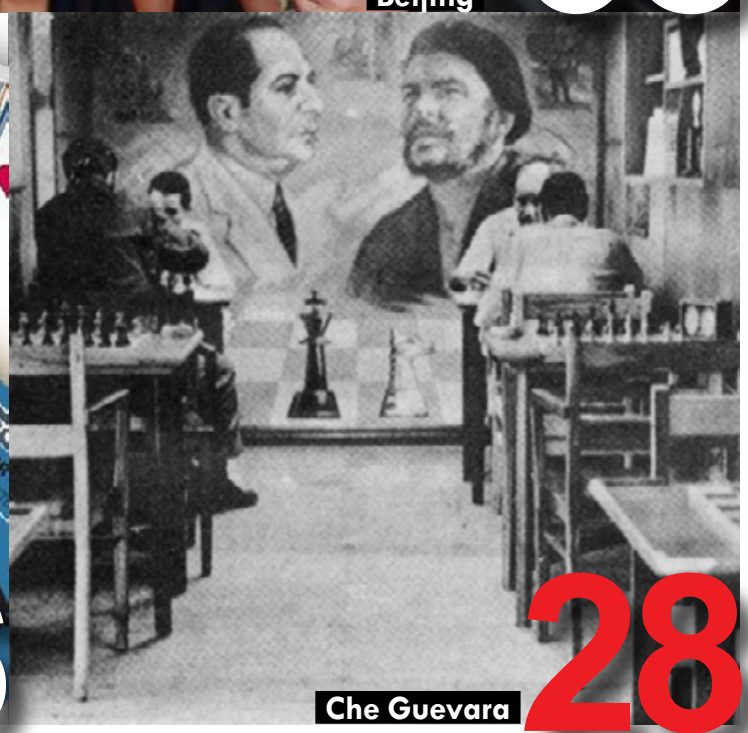
44 In Search of Maximalism
In Biel, regular guest Maxime Vachier-Lagrave repeated his victory of 2009. In a first-hand account the winner explains that his win could have been smoother if he had used his chances more effectively.

66 Commuting to Canada
If you travel as much as Nigel Short does, your knowledge about jet-lags can only expand.

'When I look at the other players around the world, a lot of these players are very strong. I am surprised that I can show such good results against them. Some guys you can see if they start winning it's very good for them and they win more, but I don't normally have this. Here five out of nine looked really great to me and to score seven… I am a bit in shock really. But I also understand that if I am in kind of good form then I can play well. It's paradoxical.'
– Mickey Adams

SUBSCRIPTIONS p.98





68 Beijing GP
While Shakhriyar Mamedyarov claimed the fifth FIDE Grand Prix and Veselin Topalov qualified for the next Candidates' tournament, Anish Giri kept his promise to our readers.

96 Sadler on Books
Here's your guide to the French Winawer!

102 King's Gambit
Inspired by John Shaw's monumental *The King's Gambit*, Hans Ree writes about his own love for this brain-crushing opening.

106 Just Checking
Which three people would Alexander Ipatov like to invite for dinner?

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Mickey Adams, Yochanan Afek, Dmitry Andreikin, Adam Feinstein, Anish Giri, Alexander Grischuk, Alexander Ipatov, Gata Kamsky, Alexander Moiseenko, Arkadij Naiditsch, Hans Ree, Matthew Sadler, Nigel Short, Jan Timman, Veselin Topalov, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Anastasya Karlovich, Alexander Motylev, Michael Nicholson/Corbis/HH

COVER PHOTO

Che Guevara: © Michael Nicholson/Corbis/HH

COLOPHON

PUBLISHER: Allard Hoogland
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:
Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam, Jan Timman
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Anish Giri
EDITORS: Peter Boel, René Olthof
ART-DIRECTION: Jan Scholtus
PRODUCTION: Joop de Groot
TRANSLATORS:
Sarah Hurst, Ken Neat, Piet Verhagen
SALES AND ADVERTISING: Remmelt Otten

© No part of this magazine may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

NEW IN CHESS
P.O. BOX 1093
1810 KB ALKMAAR
THE NETHERLANDS

PHONE: 00-31-(0)72-51 27 137
FAX: 00-31-(0)72-51 58 234
E-MAIL:
SUBSCRIPTIONS: nic@newinchess.com
EDITORS: editors@newinchess.com
SALES AND ADVERTISING:
otten@newinchess.com

BANK DETAILS:
IBAN: NL41ABNA 0589126024
BIC: ABNANL2A in favour of Interchess BV, Alkmaar, The Netherlands

WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM

Your Move

Who do you call? Magicians!

I read with interest the column entitled 'Why did you do that?' in the NIC's Café section of New In Chess 2013/5. It seems that the chess and computer chess experts have examined the games of Borislav Ivanov and concluded that he is undoubtedly receiving computer assistance, but have not yet figured out definitively how.

I would suggest that they consult with some high-level professional magicians. Scientists are used to observing and analysing natural and physical phenomena. Many excellent scientists have been badly fooled when asked to investigate paranormal phenomena. Magicians are used to observing and analysing people and are especially good in understanding how people can be fooled. It might be worth having someone like Penn Jillette, James Randi or Rick Jay take a look at the case.

Great magazine!

Julian Wan
Ann Harbor, MI, USA

As the world progresses

Steve Giddins pops up in your letters pages now and then, and it's usually to complain about something or the other. This time (New In Chess 2013/5) it is to do with the use of 'emoticons'.

Anish Giri (whom Steve Giddins specifies) expresses himself as he should: as a '21st century' youth, which is only to be expected. I for one have no problems with emoticons and exuberance (which I notice are missing from Anish' article on his Leon match in 2013/5 – it appears that Mr. Giddins has struck lucky!)

There is a different world out there, and it has moved on from Kipling and typewriters. It may not be to his particular taste, but perhaps he would be kind enough to be patient and to bear with the rest of the world while it progresses?

Srihari Iyengar
Northampton, United Kingdom

With special fondness

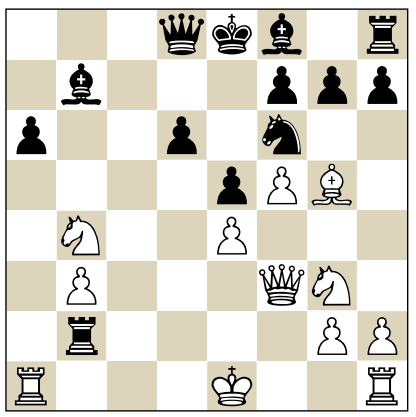
Genna Sosonko does wonderfully well at capturing the persona of Igor Ivanov (A Letter and a Word, all by himself, New In Chess 2013/5), but perhaps I may be allowed to add a few reminiscences of some of the last years of Igor's career.

He was a regular participant in tournaments both large and small held in Phoenix during the last fifteen years of his life. To call him dominant would be to understate. He would crush the strongest players that Arizona had to offer (the one exception being the up-and-coming Tal Shaked), frequently using only a handful of minutes on his clock. Just as modern grandmasters complain that Ivanchuk is impossible to prepare against, so also with Igor. He moved effortlessly between a vast number of Sicilian and Lopez variations as Black, and as White was as happy shooting down a main line King's Indian as he was playing 1.♘f3 and avoiding any theoretical challenge. At the time I considered myself rather knowledgeable about the King's Gambit, and had in fact achieved some moderate success with it against strong players, so I was delighted when in my first game ever against Igor he met my 1.e4 with 1... e5. I resigned after 23 moves; he used 23 minutes (of a two hour time control).

There were times when Igor's drinking would cost him a game against a much lower-rated player, but I remember well him showing up for a morning round rather the worse for wear and promptly dropping a piece for absolutely no compensation against a 2300 player. Onlookers were surprised that he didn't resign on the spot and just carried on playing as if nothing had happened – some twenty moves later his opponent conceded, the piece less having been no obstacle to Igor thoroughly outplaying his foe.

There is one game I played against Igor that I remember with special fondness, not just for the result, but for perhaps the most aesthetic move that I was ever lucky enough to play. To my knowledge it has never been published, but it is perhaps worth a quick look.

In Guthrie-Ivanov, Phoenix 1996, after **1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 ♘bd7 8.f4 ♘c5 9.♕f3 b5 10.f5 e5 11.♘de2 ♗b7 12.♘g3 ♘xb3 13.axb3 ♖c8 14.♗g5 b4 15.♘d5 ♖xc2 16.♘xb4** Igor decided to grab the b2-pawn. After **16...♖xb2**



17.0-0-0!! is a rather nice trap of the intrepid rook. Igor took a few moments to recover from his visible surprise, and played **17...♕a5**, after which I was able to avoid catastrophic errors for long enough to convert the extra exchange some 45 moves later.

Igor was a great player, and I very much hope that toward the end of his life he discovered some degree of happiness. Thanks to GM Sosonko for his thoughtful, kind article on this man who deserved to be much better-known than he was.

Matt Guthrie
Phoenix, AZ, USA

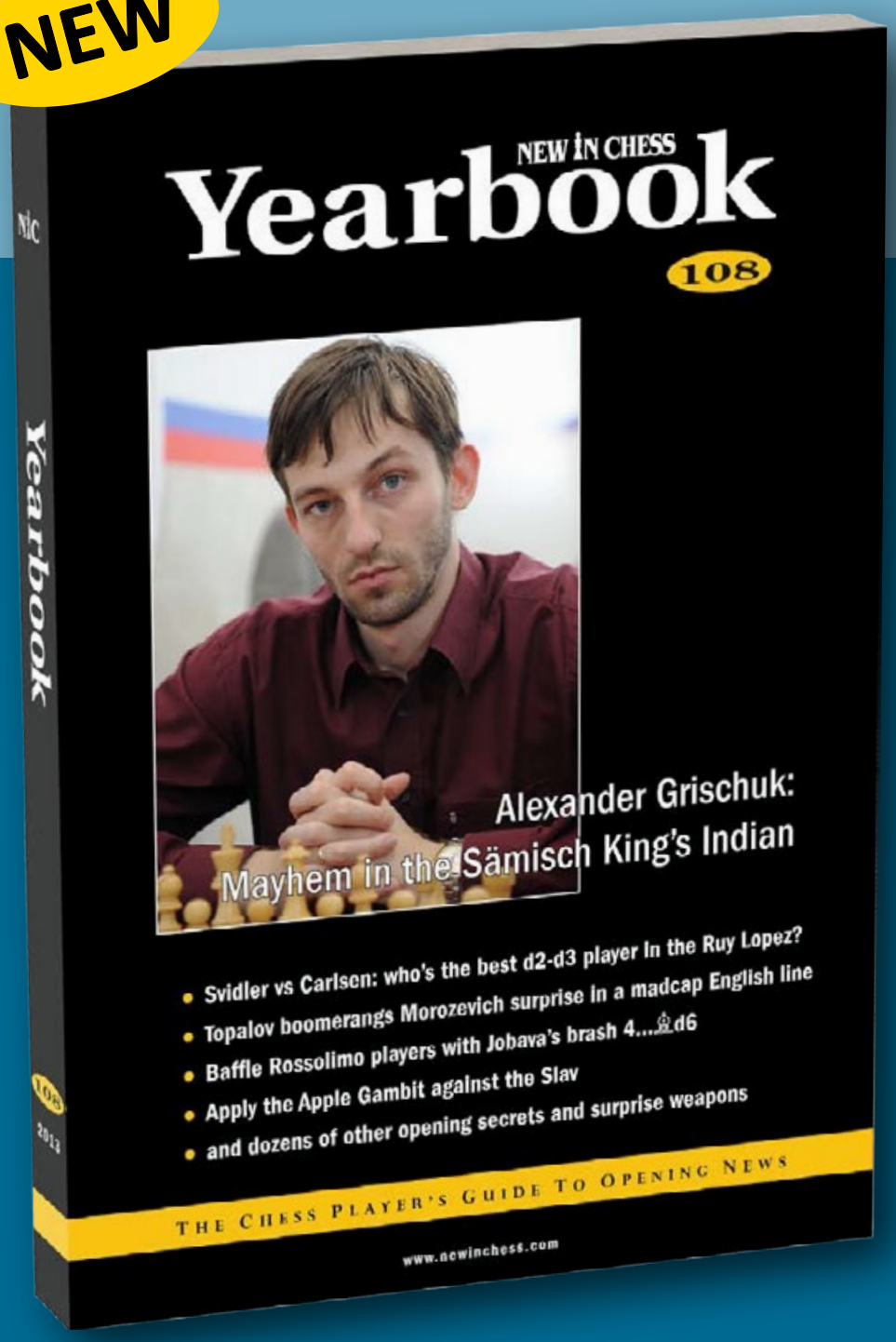
Write to us

New In Chess, P.O. Box 1093
1810 KB Alkmaar, The Netherlands
or e-mail: editors@newinchess.com
Letters may be edited or abridged

“A must-have book for both chess enthusiast and chess professional.”

Carsten Hansen, ChessCafe

NEW


NEW IN CHESS
Yearbook
108
Alexander Grischuk:
Mayhem in the Sämisch King's Indian
Svidler vs Carlsen: who's the best d2-d3 player in the Ruy Lopez?
Topalov boomerangs Morozevich surprise in a madcap English line
Baffle Rossolimo players with Jobava's brash 4...♗d6
Apply the Apple Gambit against the Slav
and dozens of other opening secrets and surprise weapons
THE CHESS PLAYER'S GUIDE TO OPENING NEWS
www.newinchess.com
Yearbook
2013

With answers to urgent questions such as:

- Is Carlsen the best d2-d3 player in the Ruy Lopez?
- Is Velimirovic’s 10.h4 winning against the Pirc?
- Does the Shirov Gambit still pack a punch?
- What’s Black’s best try for a win against the Moscow Sicilian according to Tiviakov?
- Can Black bail out with 8...h5 against the Perenyi Attack?
- Is Jobava’s brash 4...♗d6 a good reply to the Rossolimo Sicilian?
- Is Black alright in the endgame resulting from the Tarrasch French with 3...♘f6?
- Has the Gubnitsky-Pytel Scandinavian been refuted?
- Is Svidler’s new plan with 3...a6 and 4...b5 the way to go for Black in the QGA?
- How dangerous is Anand’s 9.d5 in the 8.♗b5+ Grünfeld?
- Was Grischuk’s 12...♘c4 sac in the Sämisch King’s Indian really too much?
- Does the ‘Armenian recipe’ against the KID work?
- Does 6.e4 constitute a new heavy blow to the Benko Gambit?
- How did Topalov outprepare Morozevich in the Symmetrical English?
- Has Ivanchuk played the perfect Anti-Grünfeld?
- and many more

Paperback ♦ 256 pages ♦ € 29.95 ♦ available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com

Let the match begin

In the months leading up to the 1972 match against Boris Spassky, Bobby Fischer spent a lot of time at Grossinger's, a huge resort complex in the Catskill Mountains near Liberty, New York. Here he worked on his chess and received guests like Larry Evans and Bernard Zuckerman. But his main emphasis was on improving his physical fitness, so that 'the Russians' weren't going to wear him down in the gruel-

Magnus Carlsen in action at the Kragerø luxury resort.

ling 24-game match that awaited him. Fischer would run, swim, work out on the punch bag or the stationary bike, jump rope, play tennis and unwind in the sauna. His dedication and fanaticism can be gleaned from the legendary photos that star photographer Harry Benson published in his book *Bobby Fischer* two years ago.

As the first Western challenger since Bobby Fischer, Magnus Carlsen has always been careful to avoid direct comparisons with the controversial American, but as far as his physical preparation is concerned, it is tempting to think that he took a leaf out of Fischer's book. Carlsen spent a good part of the month of August at the Kragerø luxury resort, a splendid golf course and spa amid a breath-taking Norwegian landscape. While Fischer was happy to be away from the bustle of New York City and the prying interest of the press, Carlsen happily shared impressions of his daily activities in Kragerø on Facebook and Twitter. Taking a high dive, playing golf, football, tennis or volleyball – Carlsen loves it all, and the best photographs of the challenger in action seem to send a clear message to the champ: even though the match is 'only' 12 games, stamina is going to play an important part.

Meanwhile, Carlsen also sends out other signals – or perhaps he doesn't. Teasingly he asks if anyone recognizes two people in a picture of him on the sports field, when it only takes a brief look to see that he's with his compatriot Jon-Ludvig Hammer and the world's number two Levon Aronian. And he shows a clip in which he beats a friend (no name mentioned, but French GM Laurent Fressinet is easily identified) and comments: 'Too weak, too slow, but he is a very nice guy ☺.' What conclusions Anand should draw from these leaks is unclear, but they add to the psychological play that makes world championships so intriguing.

Following his training camp at Kragerø, Carlsen travelled to India, a country he'd never been to before, in the company of his manager Espen Agdestein, his father Henrik and his personal chef Magnus Forssell, who will prepare his food during the match. And in case you are wondering, the regulations provide for a budget of 200,000 euro for the challenger for such inspection visits.

During his visit to Chennai, Carlsen played a simul against children and met various dignitaries. But he didn't meet the city's number one chess son, World Champion Vishy Anand. According to his wife and manager Aruna, Anand was busy training for the match 'outside Chennai'. There was no need for him to join Carlsen at any of the scheduled activities, she told the *Times of India*: 'Anand has never been on an inspection tour before the World Championship matches.'

This way up. Of course you have to prepare for your Black games as well.

A clear signal

At the start of every round of the Sparkassen Chess Meeting, Vladimir Kramnik, as is his habit these days, handed his mobile phone to the chief arbiter. Not because he publicly wants to show that he doesn't need external help (after all he could have another phone in his pocket), but for a simple and practical reason: you don't want to look silly and lose a point when your phone suddenly rings because you have not switched it off properly. Anti-cheating measures at top events are rather lax, and maybe we should just be happy about that. After all, it is a clear sign that there is mutual trust amongst the best players and an indication that no top player is under suspicion.

The only anti-cheating measure in force in Dortmund was a 15-minute delay of the live broadcast, which is said to make receiving moves from undesirable accomplices a tad more complicated. We continue to believe that this isolated measure doesn't make too much sense, but since at least the transmission in the press room was live this time, we didn't really mind.

Sadly, the pleasant atmosphere at the Dortmund festival took a blow from a disagreeable incident in the lower regions. In Round 8, Jens Kotainy, a young German IM, was disqualified on suspicions of cheating. It wasn't the first time that Kotainy, born in 1994, had been associated with foul play. Earlier this year he had already attracted attention with a number of

remarkable victories over grandmasters, while his achievements were considerably less spectacular when his games were not transmitted live on

Disqualified in Dortmund. Jens Kotainy with his hands above the table.

the Internet. Kotainy asserts that the similarity of his moves with those of Houdini is the natural result of his intensive training with chess engines, but few believe his defence.

In the Dortmund Open, Kotainy won his first seven games, and again it was his Houdini-like play that convinced the arbiters to watch him closely. What struck them was that after each move he would put his hand in the left pocket of his trousers and keep it there for some time. After a spectacular victory over German GM Schmittdiel, Kotainy was asked to show what he had in his pocket. Not raising any objections he showed a phone that was switched off. Nevertheless, the arbiters asked him to hand over his phone when he arrived for Round 8, and once again the young IM consented. For a brief while the arbiters may have felt that they were getting nowhere, until the phone, sitting on the arbiters' table, started buzzing. Apparently, it was not switched off at all and it was sending what they believed to be information in morse code.

The Dortmund organizers called in the police to have the incident on record, and the chess authorities tried to have the mobile phone examined, but this proved legally more difficult than they had thought. Although no one doubts his guilt, it may be more complicated to ban Koitany than you might think. For the German Chess Federation the case is extra painful, as Koitany is one of the young German hopes whom it supports financially to develop his chess talent.

It's been a while

When Samuel Reshevsky won the U.S. Championship in 1969, this was a remarkable feat for more than one reason. One reason was that it was an amazing 33 years ago since he won the title for the first time, in 1936. I can do better than that, Roderick McIntosh McKay, a.k.a. Roddy McKay, may have thought when he entered the 120th Scottish Championship and International Open in Helensburgh. And he was right. Forty-two years after McKay won the title back in 1971, and 25 years after he won it

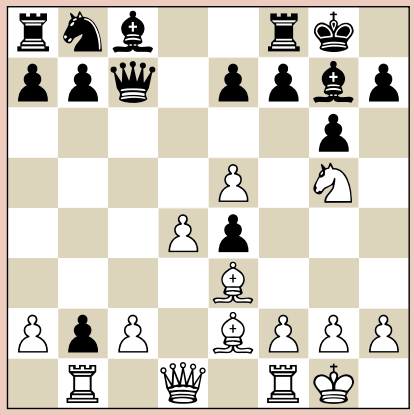
Roddy McKay heading for his 8th Scottish title in his game against Mark Hebden.

the last time, he once again was the strongest. McKay, who is seen as one of the biggest Scottish talents ever, claimed the championship a total of eight times, a number many believe could have been higher if he hadn't put his job and family in the first place.

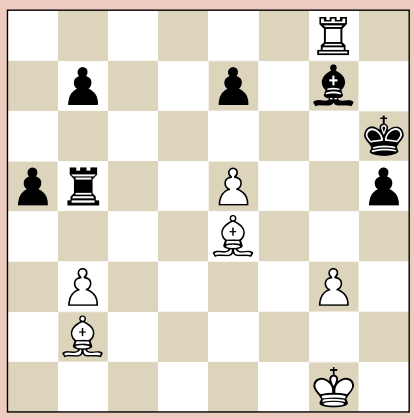
The International Open ended in a three-way tie, with Gawain Jones taking first place on tiebreak ahead of fellow GMs Imre Hera and Danny Gormally. With his last-round win against English GM Mark Hebden, 62-year-old McKay, who finished 11th overall, not only became Scottish Champion, but also Scottish Senior Champion.

QP 1.3 – A48
Roddy McKay
Mark Hebden
Helensburgh 2013

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.d4 g6 3.♗g5 ♗g7 4.♘bd2 0-0 5.e4 d5 6.♗d3 c5 7.e5 c4 8.♗e2 ♘e4 9.♗e3 c3 10.♘xe4 dxe4 11.♘g5 cxb2 12.♖b1
The opening seems to be going well for Black, but on closer inspection White is doing fine. **12...♕c7 13.0-0**



13...f6 And this gets Black into trouble. More natural was 13...♖d8. **14.♘xe4 f5** Compounding Black's problems. He should have gone 14...fxe5. **15.♘g5 f4 16.♗d2 ♘c6 17.c3 h6 18.♕b3+ ♔h8 19.♘e6 ♗xe6 20.♕xe6** Black is lost. Hebden tries to muddy the waters with a piece sac. **20...♘xd4 21.cxd4 ♕c2 22.♖fd1 ♖ad8 23.♕b3** The easiest. **23...♕xb3 24.axb3 ♖xd4 25.♗c3 ♖xd1+ 26.♗xd1 ♖d8 27.♗xb2 ♖d5 28.g3 fxg3 29.hxg3 a5 30.f4 g5 31.♖c1 h5 32.♖c8+** Suddenly the black king finds itself in a mating net. **32...♔h7 33.♗f3 ♖b5 34.♗e4+ ♔h6 35.fxg5+ ♔xg5 36.♖g8 ♔h6**



Allowing a picturesque finish. **37.♗c1** Mate. ■

Dortmund

Adams takes the Mickey out of Kramnik

As Dortmund celebrated 40 years of international top-level chess, Vladimir Kramnik was the obvious star to watch. Hungry to obliterate the memory of his dismal performance at the Tal Memorial, the ten-time winner set about to chase a new record with inspired and at times mesmerizing chess. On any given day, the Russian's score would have sufficed for an eleventh trophy, but not at the 41st Sparkassen Chess Meeting where 41-year-old Mickey Adams baffled friend and foe, and himself, with a dream score of 7 out of 9. Delighted with his stellar 2925 performance, the Englishman maintained his laid-back calm: 'Saying it feels like a dream is a bit too much, but it does feel a bit unreal.'

Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam

As he celebrated one of the finest results in his career, Mickey Adams candidly revealed: 'To be honest, I had this sense that things were going to go wrong for me, sort of pretty much every game, and it never happened.'

As the tones of Richard Strauss' *Also sprach Zarathustra*, Dortmund's signature tune since time immemorial, die down, organizer Gert Kolbe moves to the front of the stage to introduce the players at the start of Round 8. The Stadttheater is filled with fans who are happy to be here. With two rounds to go, the tournament situation is exciting, the audio commentary by German grandmasters Klaus Bischoff and Sebastian Siebrecht will keep them entertained for hours to come, and, not unimportantly, the air-conditioned hall is a perfect refuge from the sweltering heat outside. Although there are only two days left, Kolbe sticks to the same routine that he has followed when introducing the 10 grandmasters for the past week. To begin with, there are four members of the German national team, Arkadij Naiditsch, Daniel Fridman, Georg Meier and Igor Khenkin, whose presence was secured thanks to a sponsorship deal with the German chess federation. Next there are a handful of prominent international guests. Three-time winner Peter Leko, who is considered a native son of Dortmund, Mickey Adams, an old friend from England, Wang Hao, the Chinese debutant, Dmitry Andreikin, the Russian champion, and Fabiano Caruana, the world's number three. And then, when the others are already seated, it's time to welcome Mr. Dortmund, Vladimir Kramnik. Or rather 'Vlady', as Kolbe affectionately calls him when he invites him to make his appearance on stage.

Kramnik's position in Dortmund is undisputed, but right now, at the start of this eighth round, another player is claiming the limelight. As tournament director Stefan Koth puts it when he presents the encounters of the day, Mickey Adams 'is playing a bit like James Bond' and proudly tops the table. After six rounds the Englishman shared first place with Kramnik, a telling two points ahead of their closest pursuers. Both had won four games, and while that may have felt normal for Kramnik, Adams was a bit flummoxed by his productivity. 'I was quite calm. I sort of had the impression that Vladimir would win anyway. Even when I was scoring quite a lot of points. To be honest, I had this sense that things were going to go wrong for me, sort of pretty much every game, and it never happened.'

It didn't happen in Round 7 either, when the tournament took a dramatic turn. While Adams continued to play impeccable chess and expertly punished Igor Khenkin's opening play, Kramnik suffered a painful loss. Instead of having his revenge for his defeat in Moscow, he lost again against Dmitry Andreikin, this time with the black pieces. Now Adams did get nervous, as he understood that with two draws in the last rounds he'd win the tournament. Since he was one point ahead of Kramnik, even one draw might suffice, as Adams had the better tiebreak because he had played more games with black. To spice things up, the drawing of lots, performed well in advance of the tournament, had decided that Adams and Kramnik were to play each other in the final round.

'Before this event I looked at my rating and thought: it's very high. I should have a break for a couple of months and look at this rating!'

This perfect pairing was just a coincidence, but Adams stressed that for him it was helpful to know who he would play when. 'I quite like it, because it helps me to work. Even at a Bundesliga weekend, when I know more or less whom I am going to be playing, I might go quite deep into some particular opening. For me it's difficult to get the same intensity before a game when I am at home and in this way you get a bit more intensity in your preparation.'

The first question that had to be answered in Round 8 was to what extent Kramnik's fighting spirit had been affected by his loss against Andreikin, an opponent that Adams had ground down with meticulous endgame play in Round 2. Arriving at the hotel late in the evening of the day of Kramnik's loss, I happened to run into him and got a clear indication of his mood. With 38° Celsius it was the hottest day of the tournament and Kramnik was dressed in shorts and a polo-shirt. Tucked under his arm was a battery of ice-cold bottles of water and the determined expression on his face said it all: if there was a last chance to fight for his eleventh victory, he would grab it. And off he rushed to his room to prepare for his game against Caruana.

The next day was a long one. While Adams did what he called a 'decent' job and avoided any sort of collapse in his game against Meier to make a welcome draw, Kramnik tried virtually everything to beat Caruana. Determined as ever, he created problems and continued to exert pressure till his opponent succumbed. After more than seven hours of play the Italian, the draw within reach, made a fatal error and resigned without awaiting his punishment.

For Caruana, who started as the Elo favourite, this blunder was the low point of a tournament that started well, before 'everything that could possibly have gone wrong went

wrong.' With a win in the last round against Fridman he limited the damage somewhat, but on the whole he was at a loss for an explanation. 'I still have to find out what the problem was. It wasn't like in Wijk aan Zee, because there I was just feeling physically bad and here I felt fine and wasn't feeling tired or sick. Let's hope this was some sort of warm-up for the World Cup, although it doesn't feel like that.'

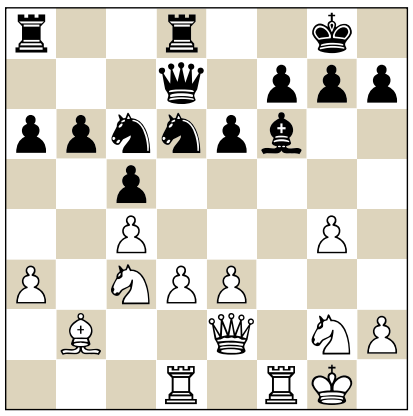
Kramnik proved that the loss against Andreikin hadn't thrown him off balance. '(Against Andreikin) I played stupidly in the opening, which can happen. Then, when I analysed the game, the guy played all the best moves, everything first line. So what can you do? You get a worse position and the guy is playing like Houdini at depth 25. I normally get upset when I lose in a stupid way, but here I didn't do anything really stupid. A bad opening can happen to anyone. Usually you still get some chances, but here I didn't get any chances. I consider that simply as bad luck. The guy had a great day and I had a bad day, that's all.'

The game against Caruana showed the same appetite for the game that Kramnik had shown in other encounters as well. He was having fun and had found back the joy that he had lost at the Tal Memorial, taking risks and seeking adventure whenever he could.

Perhaps most typical for his mood was the game he won against Daniel Fridman. Healthy play would have given him a comfortable advantage, but why not have some fun?

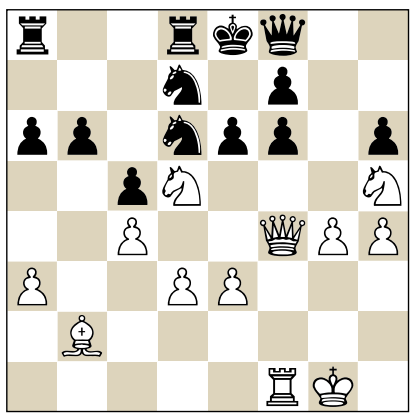
NEW IN CHESS

Vladimir Kramnik was happy that he avoided blunders and even gained rating points.



Kramnik-Fridman
position after 20...♗xf6

White has sacrificed a pawn, and although the engines favour Black it's clear that from a human perspective Black has to be careful. **21.♖xf6** And he throws in an exchange as well. Afterwards Kramnik opined that 21.♘f4 was a more prosaic way to exploit his chances. **21...gxf6 22.♘f4 ♘e5 23.♘h5 ♕e7 24.♖f1 ♘d7 25.♕g2 h6 26.h4 ♔f8** A step in the wrong direction. Kramnik indicated that Black should have defended with 26...b5, when he intended to continue with 27.♘e2 ♘e8 28.♘eg3. **27.♕g3 ♔e8 28.♕f4 ♕f8** Black loses the thread. He should have vacated a square for the oppressed king. **29.♘d5!**



That's a killer. **29...exd5 30.♗xf6 ♘xf6 31.♘xf6+ ♔e7 32.♕e5** is a nice mate, while 30...♘b8 also loses the queen after 31.♗g7. **31.♕xe5+ ♔d7 32.♗g7 ♖e8 33.♘f6+ ♔c7 34.♕a1** A stylish way to force surrender. Black resigned.

Kramnik displayed the same attitude in a turbulent game against Peter Leko. With white he was getting into serious trouble, when he uncorked a piece sacrifice that objectively speaking may have been incorrect, but demonstrated his will to play. Leko declined the offer, believing that his position was to be preferred without complications, but the psychological advantage shifted to Kramnik, who even got the full point when Leko made an expensive mistake in the endgame.

It was the first of three missed opportunities for Leko, as he rightly felt that he could also have won his next two games, against Wang Hao and Fridman. Three points from these games instead of the one that he collected, would have made a big

CHESSBASE 12

Start your personal success story now. ChessBase 12 is the chess database program which has become the world-wide standard. Get to know your next opponent'sweak points and exploit the advantage of targeted preparation. Enjoy the new ChessBase 12 program with fantastic new analysis and search features!

New in ChessBase 12:

"Deep analysis" generates a dynamic tree of variations. Leave the analysis running as long as you want. The longer the running time, the more reliable the variations displayed. Variations which do not hold up at the greater depth of calculation are automatically excluded. The result is commentary containing analysis of the important candidate moves. Strong improvement over the deep position analysis in Fritz, because it can run forever, all the while adapting the variation tree with ever-increasing depth.

Team up engines from different systems in a **"Cloud analysis".** This is a deep analysis done by several engines working in parallel, which saves an enormous amount of time. The engines are running on other computers, where they can be set up with a few clicks. You can even make the engines undertake different tasks: one engine always directs the analysis. Another spends all its time calculating the candidate moves in the starting position, in order to obtain the optimal depth of calculation. Then there is one or more other engines which are looking for the replies to each of the candidate moves etc.

"Similarity search": In ChessBase 12 endings can now be looked for with a single click and displayed classified according to their similarity to the position on the board. Access to a whole heap of endings with the same distribution of material on modern 64-Bit systems is gained in a few seconds only. And what works with endgames can also be transferred to middlegame positions. In this case too, a search is instigated for pawn structures which are almost similar to the position on the board and the similarity is considered on the basis of the position of the pieces.

More improvements:

- Online player encyclopedia with Elo ratings, upgraded throughout the year
- "Let'Check": access the world's largest database of in-depth analysis (more than 5 million positions)*
- Optional 64Bit version: speeds up access to your databases
- Intelligent google-style search box for the ChessBase online database with now more than 6,4 million games*
- New look for the ChessMedia window, big database symbols for high resolution
- New engine dialog with CPU-optimisation
- One-click publication of one or more games on the web in a Java script.

System requirements: Minimum: Minimum: Pentium III 1 GHz, 1 GB RAM, Windows Vista, XP (Service Pack 3), DirectX9 graphics card with 256 MB RAM, DVD-ROM drive, Windows Media Player 9 and Internet access to activate the program, Playchess.com, Let's Check, Engine Cloud and updates.

Recommended: PC Intel Core i7, 2.8 GHz, 4 GB RAM, Windows 7 (64 Bit) or Windows 8 (64 Bit), DirectX10 graphics card (or compatible) with 512 MB RAM or more, 100% DirectX10 compatible sound card, Windows Media Player 11, DVD ROM drive and Internet access to activate the program, Playchess.com, Let's Check, Engine Cloud and updates.

ChessBase 12 - Starter package 179,90 €

- **ChessBase 12 Program**
- **Big Database 2013**
- **Games download until 31st December 2013**
- **Access to ChessBase Online Database (over 6.4 million games)***
- **Access to "Let's Check" and "Engine Cloud"**
- **Half a Year's subscription to ChessBase Magazine (3 issues)**

ChessBase 12 - Mega package 269,90 €

- **ChessBase 12 Program**
- **Mega Database 2013**
- **Games download until 31st December 2013**
- **Access to ChessBase Online Database (over 6.4 million games)***
- **Access to "Let's Check" and "Engine Cloud"**
- **Year's subscription to ChessBase Magazine (6 issues)**

ChessBase 12 - Premium package 369,90 €

- **ChessBase 12 Program**
- **Premium membership on playchess.com (1 year)**
- **Mega Database 2013**
- **Games download until 31st December 2013**
- **Access to ChessBase Online Database (over 6.4 million games)***
- **Access to "Let's Check" and "Engine Cloud"**
- **Year's subscription to ChessBase Magazine**
- **Corr Database 2013 + Endgame Turbo 3 (9 DVDs)**

ChessBase 12 - Upgrade from 11 99,90 €

- **ChessBase 12 program**
- **Access to ChessBase Online Database (over 6.4 million games)***

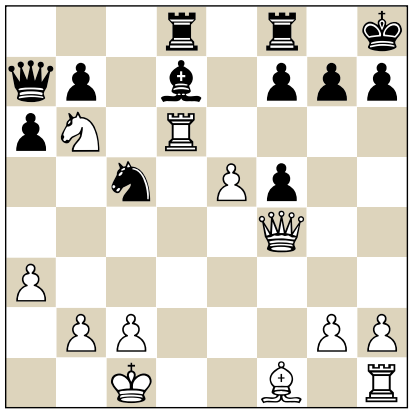
Only after you have returned your CB11 registration number!

*) the service lasts till 31.12.2015

CHESSBASE GMBH · OSTERBEKSTRASSE 90A · D-22083 HAMBURG · TEL ++(49) 40/639060-12 · FAX ++(49) 40/6301282 · WWW.CHESSBASE.COM · INFO@CHESSBASE.COM

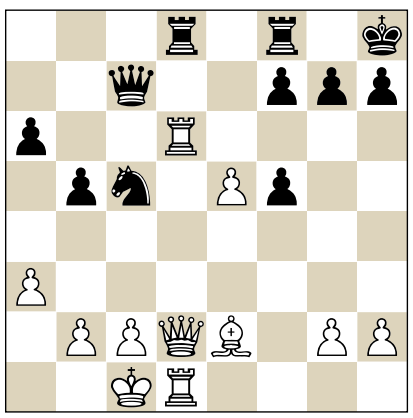
CHESSBASE DEALER: NEW IN CHESS · P.O. Box 1093 · NL-1810 KB Alkmaar · phone (+31)72 5127137 · fax (+31)72 5158234 · **WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM**

difference for the Hungarian. The way Wang Hao escaped was truly remarkable.



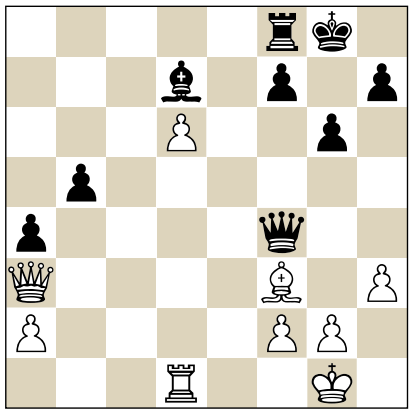
Leko-Wang Hao
position after 20...♖ad8

Black has been outplayed and everything seems to indicate that a decisive blow will hit him soon. The best move now is 21.♕h4 and Black has more problems than he can solve. But Leko spotted a simple win that barely required calculating. **21.♘xd7 ♘xd7 22.♕d2** And the pin on the d-file is deadly. White will bring his h-rook to d1 and that was it. But now Leko made a psychological mistake. Instead of quietly waiting for his opponent to resign (and Wang Hao later confirmed that this was his intention) he got up to go to the bathroom and splash some water on his face, inadvertently giving Wang Hao the impression that for some reason the game was not over yet. The Chinese started thinking, and much to his surprise he found a way out of his predicament. **22...b5 23.♗e2 ♕c7 24.♖d1 ♘c5!**



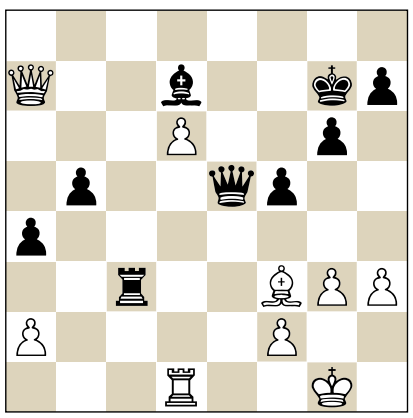
There it is! What a miraculous save! Now, after 25.♖xd8, Black has 25...♘b3+, and as he then takes the queen with another check, White would even be lost. Leko played **25.♕c3**, and after 52 moves the game was drawn.

Leko regretted the chances he had missed, but consoled himself with the knowledge that he had played interesting chess. Curiously enough, his one win was the result of his opponent's wish to spurn a draw and look for more.



Leko-Naiditsch
position after 24...a4

Black had been worse for most of the game and after 25.♕c5 his worries would continue. With about four minutes on the clock Leko suddenly pushed: **25.g3(?)** Naiditsch had 10 minutes left. He saw that with 25...b4 he could more or less force a draw, but seeing Leko's nervousness he gambled and played on: **25...♕e5 26.♕b4 ♖c8 27.♗g4 f5 28.♗f3** White's moves are easier to make than Black's in a position that suddenly has become very sharp. **28...♖c3 29.♕a5 ♔g7 30.♕a7**



30...♖xf3? And there's the mistake. The only way to hang on was 30...♕e6. **31.♕xd7+ ♔h6 32.♕c6** Now the passed d-pawn is a monster. **32...♕e2 33.♕c1+ f4 34.♕d2** Simple. Black resigned.

Leko and Naiditsch finished in shared third place, with the German taking third prize on tie-break. With three wins, three losses and three draws, the Dortmund-based local favourite was one of the most entertaining players and it felt like poetic justice that he secured a 50 per cent score, in line with his rating, with a sparkling win on the final day that he annotates below.

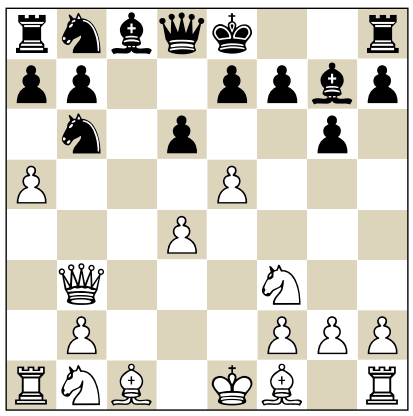
On that last day, all eyes were on the perfect pairing Adams-Kramnik. Trailing his rival by half a point, the Russian needed a win, which didn't seem impossible in light of the game he won against Adams at the recent Alekhine Memorial in Paris and St. Petersburg. With black and in the last round! But of course, this situation was different, and Kramnik's first concern was to find an opening against Adams' inevitable 1.e4 with which he could keep the game going to begin with. After the nightmarish last-round loss against Ivanchuk at the London Candidates' tournament, the Pirc was a no-go area, but what other options were there? Kramnik searched and checked till five in the morning, and even then he wasn't quite sure he had found what he was looking for.

Mickey Adams took a sober attitude and tried to get some sleep. 'I couldn't really predict what he was going to do. I didn't think he would play the Berlin, I didn't think he would play the Pirc. I thought maybe some Sicilian, but then it was quite pointless to try and guess; he could come up with anything. I didn't have so much time since the game was earlier. I didn't want to prepare and knew I had to play well in this game. This is more important.'

The crisis, and a 'very happy moment' for Mickey Adams, came much earlier than expected.

SI 43.1 – B27
Michael Adams
Vladimir Kramnik
Dortmund 2013 (9)

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 g6 3.c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘d5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 ♗g7 7.♕b3 ♘b6 8.a4 d6 9.a5



A move that must have filled Adams with great relief. With White's lead in development and space advantage there is no sensible way for Black to avoid the following move repetition. **9...♗e6 10.♕b5+ ♗d7 11.♕b3 ♗e6 12.♕b5+ ♗d7 13.♕b3 ♗e6 14.♕b5+ ♗d7** Draw.

Mickey Adams was delighted with his win, but found it hard to pinpoint what he believed was the basis of his success, which earned him 21 Elo points and took his rating to 2761, past his former career best of 2755. 'Before this event I looked at my rating and thought: it's very high. I should have a break for a couple of months and look at this rating! I thought if I kept this rating here I'd be very happy. The idea that I could gain a huge number of points... I'm still a bit surprised and confused even. I played a few high-category tournaments (in a row) and it's always good if you play at this level. For me this is good and it definitely helps me. You kind of study the right openings. I didn't make any really big plans for the tournament. I was quite relaxed, maybe that helped. When I was looking at the pairings, it didn't really look that promising. And I was thinking, OK, I will take some decisions and play those openings and see what happens. Time management was good, little things seemed to be falling into place. Everything just went my way, guys were giving me breaks at the right moments.'

His greatest successes so far were achieved in knock-out tournaments such as the FIDE knock-out World Championships. 'For closed tournaments I don't think I had anything comparable to this. It's hard to compare a knock-out tournament and a closed tournament; it's two very different things. Or an open tournament. So for a closed tournament, just to have seven points and the only real weak moment was against Fridman, where I let the advantage slip. Otherwise pretty much everything went well.'

Still, giving a fuller explanation or reason was not something he seemed ready for, as a further typical answer showed: 'I am wondering about this again, that there may be bad news around the corner. I am just not that confident. When I look at the other players around the world, a lot of these players are very strong. I am surprised that I can show such good results against them. It's unusual for me to get so many chances in one tournament without barely missing one. Some guys you can see if they start winning it's very good for them and they win more, but I don't normally have this. Here five out of nine looked really great to me and to score seven... I am a bit in shock really. But I also understand that if I am in kind of good form then I can play well. It's paradoxical.'

'I am wondering about this again, that there may be bad news around the corner. I am just not that confident.'

Let's hear the praise then from the man he relegated to second place on his home-ground. Vladimir Kramnik was happy that he had largely overcome the crisis that threw him off-balance in Moscow and glad to have avoided the kind of collapses he suffered there. 'My goal was, if possible, not to lose too much rating and not to blunder anything. And I even gained rating and I didn't blunder anything. Usually plus-4 is enough here to win the tournament, but Mickey had a great tournament. He played well and everything was working in his direction. He justifiably won the tournament, because I was doing quite badly in the opening, strangely enough. I was lost against Andreikin after the opening, I was worse against Leko, I was slightly worse against Khenkin. I was often in a tricky situation where I had to mess up things, like against Leko... really quite unusual for me. What was good was that I was maintaining the pressure quite well, like yesterday against Caruana. In the end it was he who blundered and not me, which happens very rarely. Of course you always want to win a tournament, but otherwise it's clear that the two weeks that I spent with my family, the kids, in the country before coming here, were very helpful.

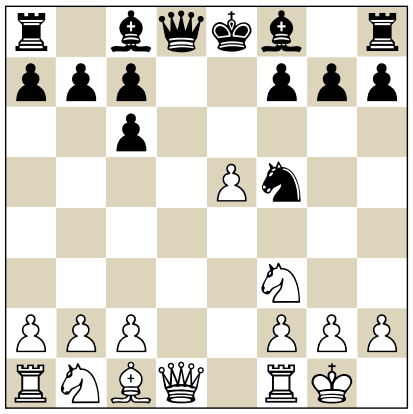
'Mickey played very well. He got some wind in the back, but that went for me as well. Lately he has been playing incredibly well. In the London Classic he could have easily won. He lost an incredible game against Magnus and didn't win against McShane with something like +12. Then he almost won Paris and St. Petersburg and actually I think that he played the best chess there, in fact. And now here, he is really on a run. I am very happy for him, first of all because I always like to see guys from my generation do well, and because he is a clearly underrated and underestimated player. Because he is very, very strong. I would like to see him more in big tournaments, because he deserves it.'

NOTES BY
Michael Adams

RL 7.4 – C67
Fabiano Caruana
Michael Adams
Dortmund 2013 (3)

This game was the start of a very unusual sequence for me, as in my last seven games everything fell into place perfectly. If only my games always worked out so neatly!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5

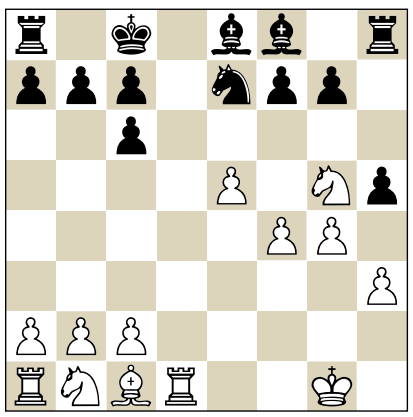


Although I have spent an unhealthy amount of my life analysing the endgame arising from the Berlin Variation, my only serious previous outing on the Black side occurred way back in 2004, against Peter Leko. The 101 moves of suffering I endured didn't encourage me to rush into a second outing.

8.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 9.h3

The new fashion, which enables White to advance his kingside pawns very rapidly in some variations.

9...♗d7 10.♖d1 ♔c8 11.g4 ♘e7 12.♘g5 ♗e8 13.f4 h5

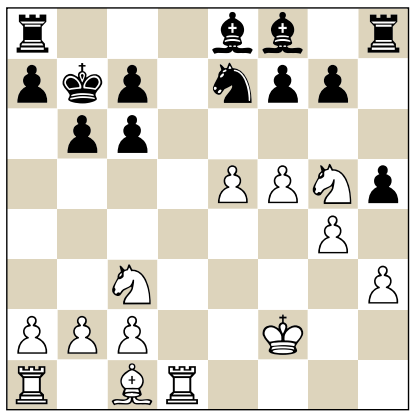


14.♔f2 I was only aware of the previously played 14.f5 and 14.♔g2. This novelty is quite clever, as the king remains ready to cover the g-pawn but avoids possible bishop checks on the light squares. White's positional assets looked rather daunting over the board here, but his king will not feel comfortable for some time.

14...b6

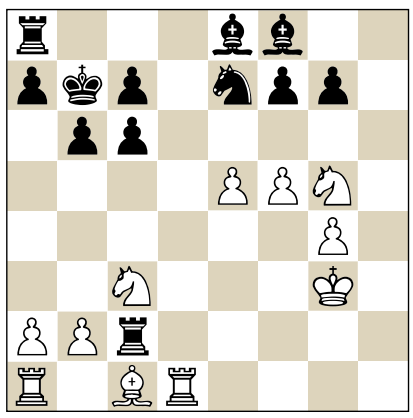
The pawn is safe for now, as 14...hxg4 15.hxg4 ♖h2+ 16.♔g3 ♖xc2 17.♘h7 wins material. My move improving Black's king position seems logical.

15.f5 ♔b7 16.♘c3 If White can complete development without incident his advanced pawns will be a crucial asset. 16.c4 was the alternative.



16...hxg4 Accepting the challenge, as 16...♘d5 17.♘xd5 cxd5 18.♔g3 looks pleasant for White.

17.hxg4 ♖h2+ 18.♔g3 ♖xc2



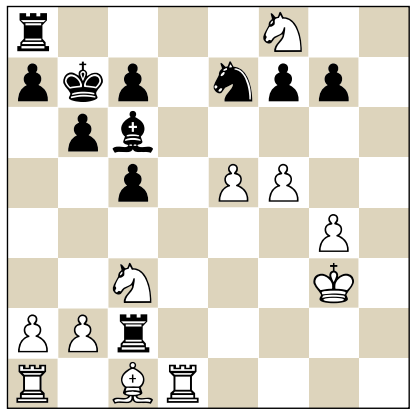
19.♘h7 My bishop is destined to perish on its starting square, but my other pieces become very active.

Play remains murky after 19.e6 f6 20.♘h7 c5 21.♘xf8 ♗c6 22.♘g6 ♘xg6 23.fxg6 ♖g2+ 24.♔f4 ♖f2+.

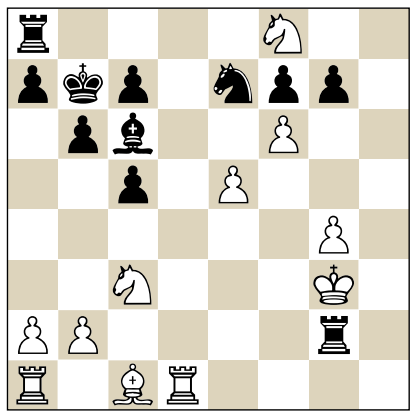
19...c5 20.♘xf8

If White wants to play for a win, I think 20.♖d2 ♖xd2 21.♗xd2 ♗c6 22.♖d1, which offers good compensation for a pawn, is worth a try.

20...♗c6

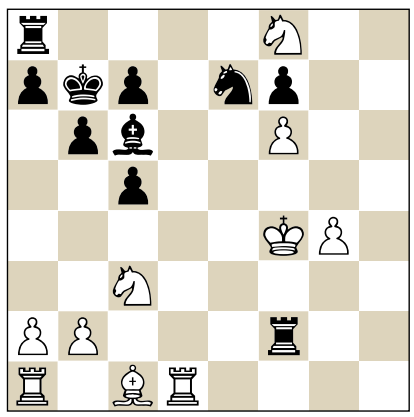


21.f6 Uncharacteristically, my opponent seriously miscalculates. I was expecting the better 21.♗g5 ♘xf5+ 22.gxf5 ♖g2+ 23.♔f4 ♖f2+ 24.♔g4 (24.♔e3 ♖xf5 25.♘h7 ♖h8 is OK for Black) 24...♖g2+, repeating. White is also in difficulties after 21.♘d7 ♖g2+ 22.♔f4 ♖h8 23.♘xc5+ bxc5 24.♖d2 ♖g1.**21...♖g2+**

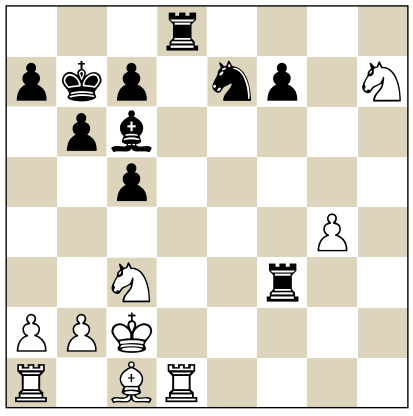


22.♔f4 White is already in dire straits, as his king can't find a safe spot: 22.♔h4 gxf6 23.exf6 ♘f5+ 24.gxf5 ♖xf8 loses, and 22.♔h3 gxf6 23.♗h6 f5 24.g5 f4 is also bad.

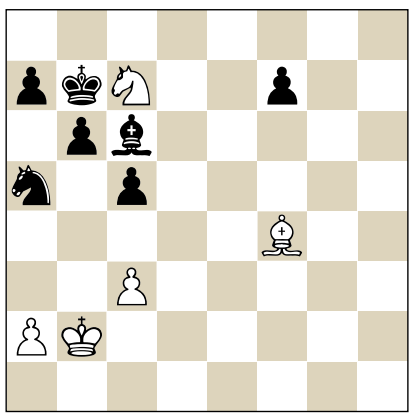
22...gxf6 23.exf6 ♖f2+



24.♔e3
After 24.♔e5, 24...♖e8 forces mate in two, and 24.♔g5 ♖xf8 25.fxe7 ♖g8+ 26.♔h4 ♖g2 only lasts a little longer.
24...♖xf6 25.♘h7 ♖f3+ 26.♔d2
The alternative 26.♔e2 ♖h8 27.♘g5 ♖h2+ 28.♔e1 ♖ff2 29.♗e3 (29.♖d2 ♖xd2 30.♗xd2 ♖h1+) 29...♖fg2 is no better.
26...♖d8+ 27.♔c2
Or 27.♔e1 ♖h8 28.♘g5 ♖h1+ 29.♔d2 ♖h2+.



27...♖xc3+ 28.bxc3 ♗a4+ 29.♔b2 ♖xd1
With two extra pawns and the better position the rest is simple.
30.♗g5 ♘c6 31.♖xd1
If 31.♗f4 then 31...♖d3.
31...♗xd1 32.♗f4
32.♘f6 ♘e5 wins another pawn.
32...♗xg4 33.♘f6 ♗f3 34.♘e8 ♘a5 35.♘xc7 ♗c6

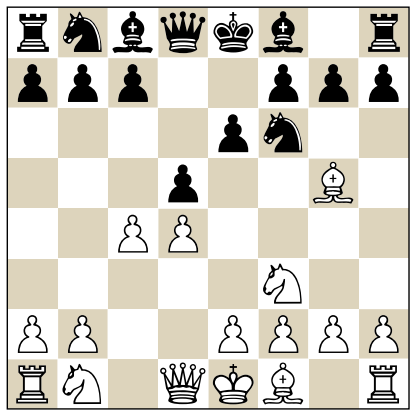


Now the white knight is dominated.
36.♔c2 ♔c8 37.♔d3 ♔d7 38.♔c2 ♘c4 39.♘a6 ♗b7 40.♘b8+ ♔c8 41.♔d3 b5
White resigned.

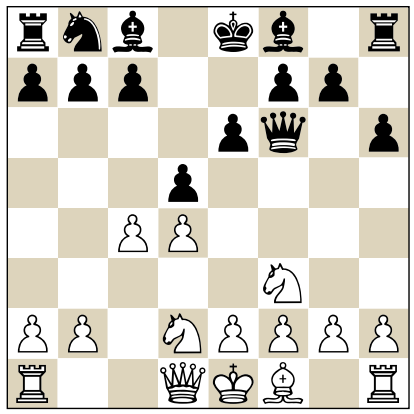
NOTES BY
Dmitry Andreikin

QO 16.6 – D30
Dmitry Andreikin
Vladimir Kramnik
Dortmund 2013 (7)

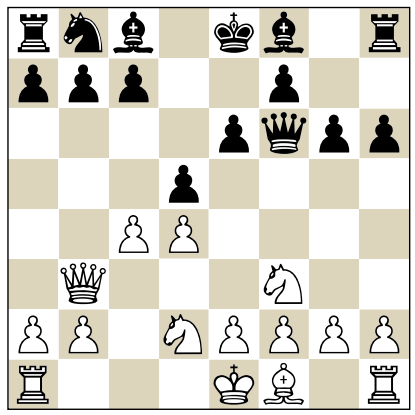
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♗g5



An interesting move that contains some ideas. As the bishop moves first, the knight on b1 can go to c3 or d2, depending on Black's moves. Another idea is that after 4.♘c3 Black can go 4...c5, and Vladimir Kramnik played exactly so in his last games. The early development of the white bishop doesn't allow Black to reduce the pressure in the centre.
4...h6 This move was made rather quickly. In case of any bishop move by my opponent I was ready to answer by playing my knight to c3 and go to the main line.
5.♗xf6
In case of the bishop's retreat to h4, Black can go to the main lines, having useful transpositions.
5...♕xf6 6.♘bd2

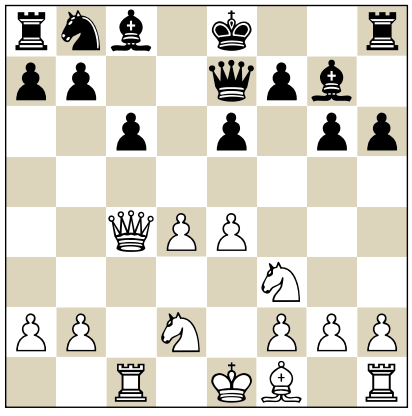


Houdini doesn't approve of this move. The knight on d2 doesn't exert any pressure on the black centre, though it has some pros here as well.
6...g6
This move looks artificial. Black cannot open lines for his bishops, as after 6...c5?! 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e4! White has a great initiative.
Perhaps Black should have taken his queen back, 6...♕d8!?, or strengthened the pawn centre with 6...c6!?.
7.♕b3
This move looks simple and logical.

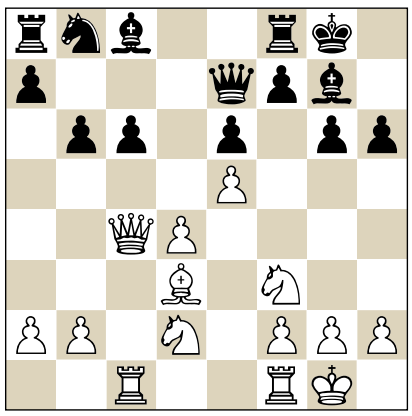


7...dxc4?! Black gives up the centre without a fight. That's a serious decision. I think my opponent had problems from this very moment.
Black had other opportunities:
– 7...c6?! 8.e4!. Usually Black takes here, 8...dxc4, and solves his problems with the help of the dark-squared bishop. But in this position, the white knight on d2 instead of on c3 gives White some advantage. Now, after 9.♘xc4, White controls the d6-square, which gives him a positional advantage.
– Another idea for Black deserves attention: 7...♕d8!? 8.cxd5!? exd5 9.e4 ♗g7 (9...dxe4? 10.♘e5 clearly favours White) 10.♗d3!? (10.♕xd5 ♕xd5 11.exd5 0-0 12.♗c4 is equal) 10...0-0 11.0-0 ♘c6 12.e5, with complications.
8.♕xc4 ♕e7
Here 8...c6 only leads to a change in move order.
Developing the knight to this square looks very risky: 8...♘c6?! 9.e3!? ♗g7 10.♗d3 0-0 11.♗e4! ♗d7 12.♘b3, and Black has great problems on the queenside.

9.♖c1 A good move. It is necessary to determine the pawn structure and develop the rook.
9...c6 10.e4 ♗g7



11.e5! It's very important not to allow Black to play ...e6-e5. Now White has a spatial advantage.
11...0-0 12.♗d3 b6
A good idea. The main aim of this move is to play ...c6-c5 and to disturb the white pieces on the a6-f1 diagonal. There is no equality in the line 12...♘d7 13.♘e4! (on 13.0-0?!, 13...c5 equalizes) 13...♘b6 14.♕b3 ♘d5 15.0-0 a5 16.a3, and Black is too passive.
13.0-0
Castling looks more sensible than 13.♗e4?! ♗a6 14.♕b3 ♘d7! 15.♘c4 (15.♖xc6 ♖ac8 16.♖c3 ♖fd8 gives Black good compensation) 15...♖ad8 16.0-0 ♗xc4 17.♖xc4 c5 18.♕a3 a5 19.♗c6 ♘b8 20.♗b5 ♖d5!, and Black is fine.

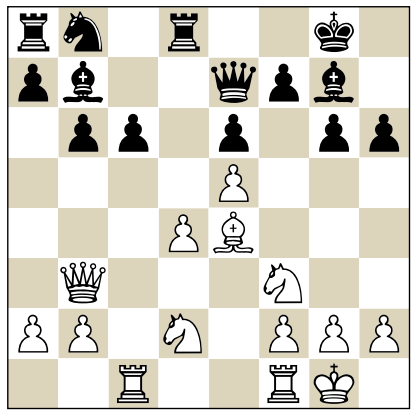


13...♖d8?! This move looks cunning, but it can be refuted.
After the simple 13...♗a6 14.♕b3 c5 15.dxc5 ♗xd3 16.♕xd3 ♘d7! 17.♕e2 ♘xc5 18.b4! ♘d7 19.a3 White has some advantage, but nothing more.

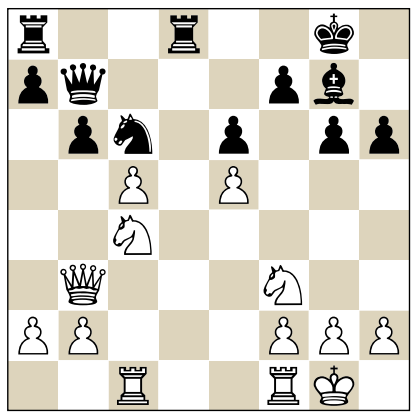
NEW IN CHESS

Dmitry Andreikin and his wife Svetlana at the prize-giving. With 2 wins from 2 games the young Russian's score against Vladimir Kramnik is pretty unique.

14.♕b3! The queen reaches the ideal position! **14...♗b7 15.♗e4**

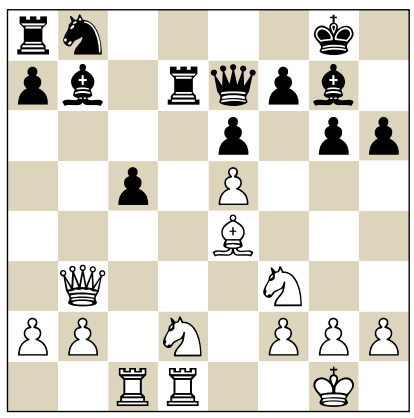


15...♖d7?! Too slow. It's difficult to give Black good advice, but he should have considered 15...c5!? 16.♗xb7 ♕xb7 17.dxc5 ♘c6 18.♘c4



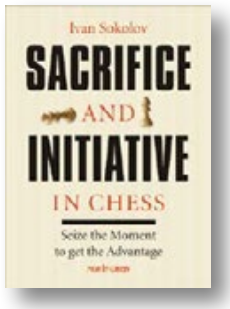
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

18...♘d4 (or 18...♖d5 19.cxb6 ♘xe5 20.♘fxe5 ♗xe5 21.♕f3! – White's main idea is based on this move! – 21...♗g7 22.♘d6! ♕e7 – 22...♕xb6 loses to 23.♕xf7+ ♔h7 24.♘e8! – 23.♖c7, and White wins) 19.♘xd4 ♖xd4 20.f4! ♗f8 21.♘d6 ♕c6 22.♕e3 ♕d5 (22...bxc5?? 23.♕xd4) 23.b4!! ♖xb4 24.c6 ♗xd6 25.exd6 ♖b2! 26.♕f3 ♕d4+ 27.♔h1 ♕xd6 28.c7 ♖c8 29.♕b7 ♕f8 30.♖fd1 ♔g7 31.♕c6!, and this endgame is very much in White's favour (note that 31.♕xc8?? loses to 31...♕xc8 32.♖d8 ♕xc7).
16.♖fd1 Now I can increase my advantage with simple moves.
16...c5 17.dxc5 bxc5



18.♕a4!

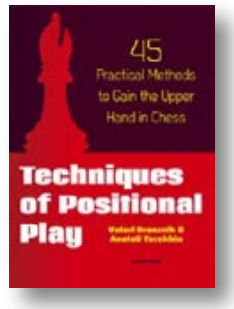
BESTSELLERS
New In Chess Online Shop



1

Sacrifice and Initiative in Chess
Seize the Moment to Get the Advantage
by Ivan Sokolov

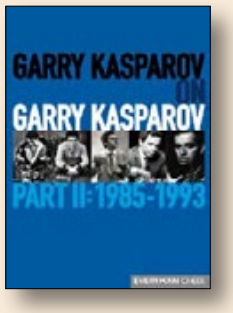
Will probably become a classic!



6

Techniques of Positional Play
45 Practical Methods to Gain the Upper Hand in Chess
by Valeri Bronznik & Anatoli Terekhin

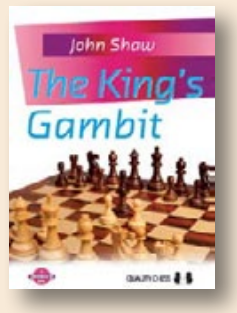
"One of the best books on positional play."
Manchester Chess Federation



2

Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov - Part II
1985-1993
by Garry Kasparov

The greatest player on his greatest battles



7

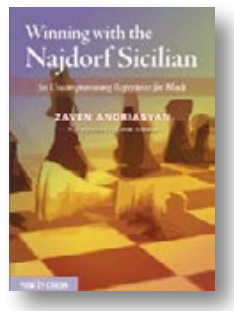
The King's Gambit
A Grandmaster Guide
by John Shaw

Worth the wait!

3

Complete Slav II
The Main-Line, Meran, Botvinnik Variation and much more
by Konstantin Sakaev

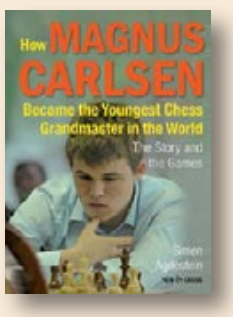
"Countless novelties, clever concepts, and audacious ideas." Glenn Flear on Part I



8

Winning with the Najdorf Sicilian
An Uncompromising Repertoire for Black
by Zaven Andriasyan

"Razor-sharp weapons." Chess Club of Southern Indiana



4

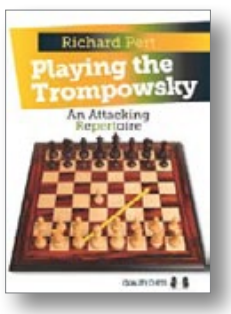
How Magnus Carlsen Became the Youngest Chess Grandmaster in the World
The Story and the Games
by Simen Agdestein

"Agdestein does a good job." ChessCafe

9

Vassily Ivanchuk
100 Selected Games
by Nikolay Kalinichenko

"The games and analysis are of extraordinary quality." The Sunday Times



5

Playing the Trompowsky
An Attacking Repertoire
by Richard Pert

Packed with novelties

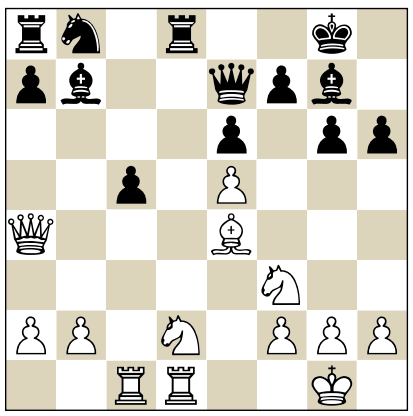
10

Kotronias on the King's Indian - Volume 1
Fianchetto Systems
by Vassilios Kotronias

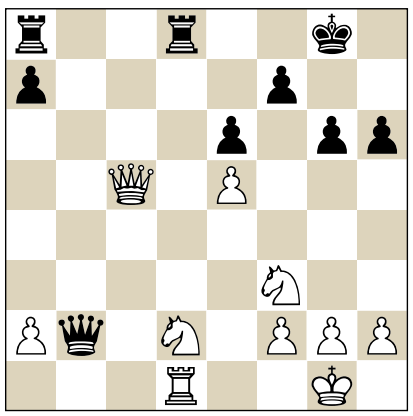
Solid and instructive

For a sweeping variety of more than 2,000 chess products go to www.newinchess.com

My queen doesn't allow the black knight to enter the game.
I could have got a material advantage right now, but that would only have helped Black to defend his position: 18.♖xc5?! ♘a6! 19.♖cc1 ♘c5 20.♕e3 ♘xe4 21.♘xe4 ♖xd1+ 22.♖xd1 ♖d8, and White has lost most of his advantage.
18...♖d8 Black has to admit the failure of his set-up. He has no choice but to go back with the rook.
After 18...♗d5, 19.♘b1! a5 20.♘c3 ♕d8 21.h4!? looks promising.

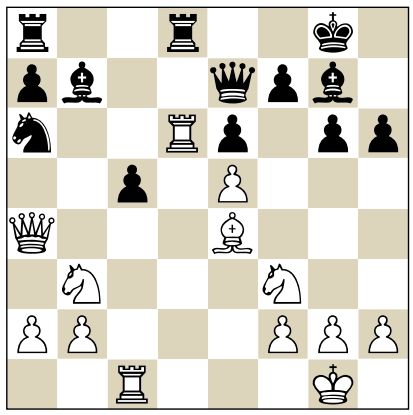


19.♘b3?!
Not a bad move. It allows me to continue to develop my advantage.
I thought my position was much better, so I didn't consider the line 19.♖xc5! ♘a6 20.♖cc1 ♘c5 21.♕a3 ♗f8 22.♗xb7 ♕xb7 23.♖xc5 ♗xc5 24.♕xc5 ♕xb2, and I believed Black to have some compensation.
But thorough analysis shows that after

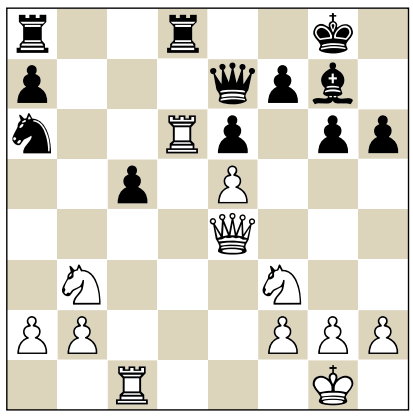


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

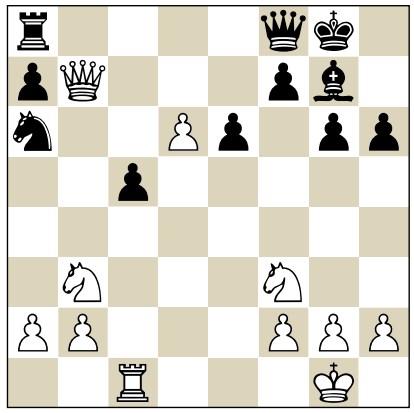
25.♕e3! ♖ac8 26.h4! ♔g7 27.♕f4 White not only has a material advantage, but also creates unpleasant threats to the black king.
19...♘a6
The knight's position is dubious. A reasonable move was 19...♗xe4 20.♕xe4 ♘d7 21.h4, when Black's position looks difficult, but he is still a long way from surrendering.
20.♖d6! This move reveals the downside of Black's previous move.



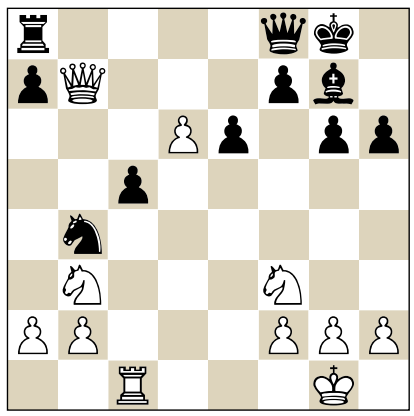
20...♗xe4?!
Black had an opportunity to get rid of the weak pawn: 20...c4!? 21.♗xb7 ♕xb7 22.♕xc4 ♖xd6 23.exd6 ♖d8 24.♘a5 ♕xb2 25.♖d1 ♘b8! 26.♕c7 ♕b6 27.g3! ♖d7!, and Black has good chances to survive (not, of course, 27...♕xc7?? 28.dxc7 ♖xd1+ 29.♔g2, and Black can resign).
21.♕xe4 Now there is no doubt about White's advantage.



21...♖xd6?! This move was made after much thought. The computer considers it to be the best, but then you have to defend this difficult position like Houdini.
Under time-pressure I would prefer 21...♘b4 22.♘xc5 ♘d5 23.♖c6 ♖ab8 24.♘d3 ♗f8, when Black's position is difficult, but at least he has some counterplay.
22.exd6 ♕f8 Other queen moves lead to defeat even faster.
23.♕b7!



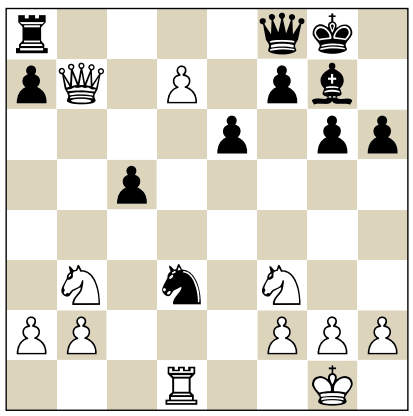
Here I felt that victory was near.
23...♘b4 Deep in thought I was waiting for 23...♕c8? 24.♕b5! ♖b8 25.d7, and White wins.



24.d7
I thought I could find a forced win, but having spent so much time I decided to make a practical move.
Unfortunately, I was not able to win with a queen sacrifice: 24.♘xc5 ♖b8 25.d7! ♖xb7 26.♘xb7 ♗f6 27.♖c8 ♘c6! 28.♖e8 ♔g7 29.a3! ♘d8! 30.♖xf8 ♔xf8 31.♘xd8 ♗xd8 32.♘e5 ♔e7 33.♘c6+ ♔xd7 34.♘xa7 ♗f6, or 24.♖xc5 ♖b8 25.♕xb8 ♕xb8 26.d7 ♕d8 27.♖c8 ♘c6 28.♘bd4 ♗xd4 29.♘xd4 ♔g7 30.♖xd8 ♘xd8 31.b4 ♔f6 32.♘b5 a6 33.♘c7 ♔e7 34.♘xa6 ♔xd7.
24...♘d3 During the game I thought this was a mistake, but it happened to be the best move.
The other lines are very much in White's favour:
– 24...♖b8 25.♕xa7 ♘d3 26.♖d1 c4 27.♘a5 ♖a8 28.♕b6 ♕d8 29.♘xc4 ♘xb2 30.♕xd8+ ♖xd8 31.♘xb2 ♗xb2 32.a4, and White wins without many problems;

– Or 24...♖d8 25.♘xc5 ♗xb2 26.♖c4 a5 27.♕c7 ♘d5 28.♕xa5 ♗f6 29.g3, and Black's position is hopeless.

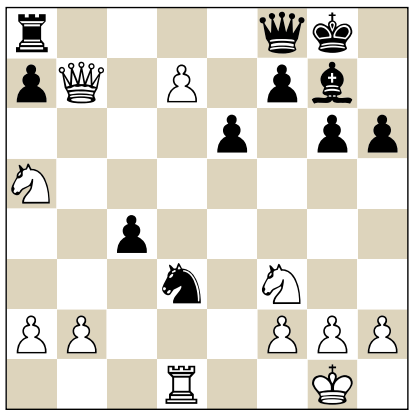
25.♖d1



25...c4? The last mistake. Neither of us had seen the idea 25...♖d8!, when White has to be very precise: 26.♕c7 ♘xb2 27.♖b1 ♘a4 28.♘a5 ♗f6 (28...♘b6 loses to 29.♕xa7 ♘xd7 30.♘c6) 29.♘c6 ♘c3 30.♖b7 ♘d5 31.♕xd8! ♗xd8 32.♖b8 ♗c7 33.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 34.♘fe5!, and White should win.

26.♘a5

I suspect that my opponent hadn't seen how dangerous this knight is. Now Black's position deteriorates rapidly.



26...♖d8 26...♖b8 loses to 27.♕xb8 ♕xb8 28.♘c6; 26...♘xb2 to 27.♕xa8, and 26...♗f6 to 27.♘xc4 ♖b8 28.♕xa7 ♘xb2 29.♘xb2 ♖xb2 30.h3.

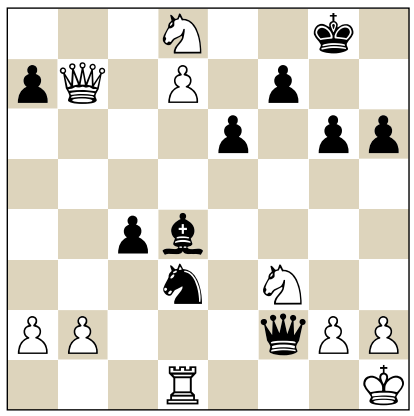
27.♘c6 ♕c5

27...♘c5 brings no relief either: 28.♘xd8 ♘xb7 29.♘xb7, and wins.

28.♘xd8

The best move, but it requires a certain precision in the protection of the king. I also could have just defended my f2-pawn with 28.♖d2 or 28.♖f1, and in both cases the win will be easy.

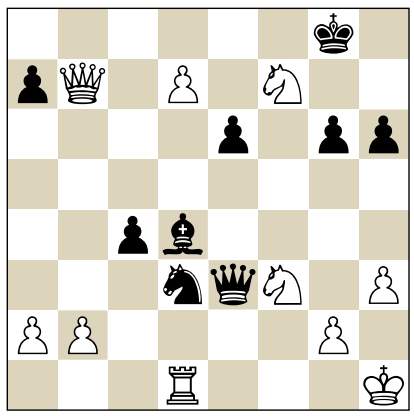
28...♕xf2+ 29.♔h1 ♗d4 29...♕e2 also loses: 30.♖xd3 cxd3 31.♘xf7 ♕f1+ 32.♘g1 ♗f6 33.♘xh6+ ♔h8 34.♕c8+ ♔g7 35.♕g8+ ♔xh6 36.♕f8+ ♔h7 37.d8♕ ♗xd8 38.♕xf1.



30.h3

Any h-pawn move leads to victory. But 30.♘xe6?? doesn't: 30...♕g1+ 31.♘xg1 ♘f2 mate.

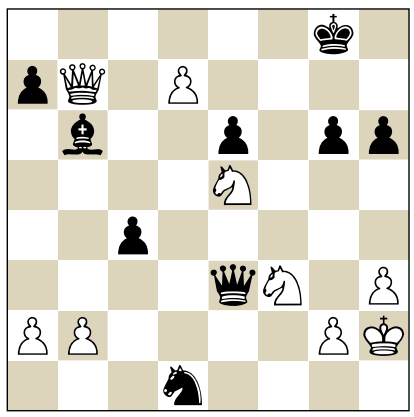
30...♕e3 31.♘xf7



31...♗b6

Or 31...♘f2+ 32.♔h2 ♕f4+ 33.g3, and wins.

32.♘7e5 ♘f2+ 33.♔h2 ♘xd1



And Vladimir resigned without waiting for my move.

It's mate after 34.d8♕+ ♗xd8 35.♕f7+ ♔h8 36.♘xg6.

NOTES BY
Arkadij Naiditsch

CK 4.1 – B12
Arkadij Naiditsch
Igor Khenkin
Dortmund 2013 (9)

We are in the last round of the 'Dortmunder Schachtage'. It had been a tournament with a lot of 'ups and downs' for me and so, of course, I wanted to finish it with a win, especially against the lowest rated player in the tournament, Igor Khenkin.

A game against Khenkin is never an easy one. This is not because of his chess, but because of his behaviour during the game, which is quite irritating and usually very unpleasant.

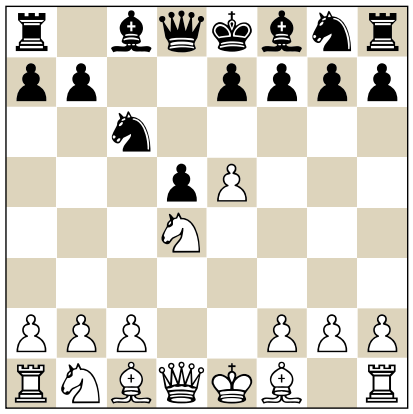
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5

Khenkin always plays the Caro-Kann and usually only the line with 3...c5, so I had enough time to be well-prepared for the game.

4.♘f3 cxd4

In a lot of previous games Khenkin tried 4...♗g4 5.dxc5 ♘c6 6.c3!, and if we follow the game Almasi-Khenkin, White seems to be just better.

5.♘xd4 ♘c6



6.c4!? A nice dynamic try to put Black under pressure immediately.

6...e6

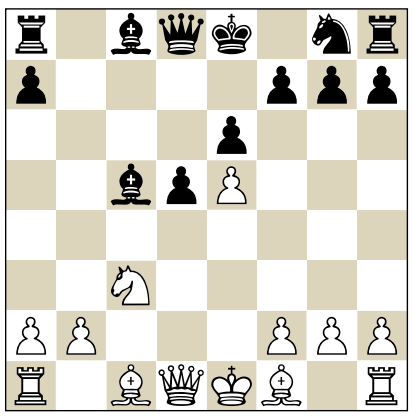
The main move. 6...♘xe5 7.cxd5 leads to a clearly better position for White.

7.♘c3 ♗c5 In case of 7...♗b4 8.♘xc6 bxc6 9.♕a4 White gets a slightly more pleasant position.

8.♘xc6 bxc6 9.cxd5 cxd5

Not, of course, 9...exd5?! 10.♗d3, with

the main idea of playing ♕c2 and ♘a4 and exerting pressure against the c6-pawn.

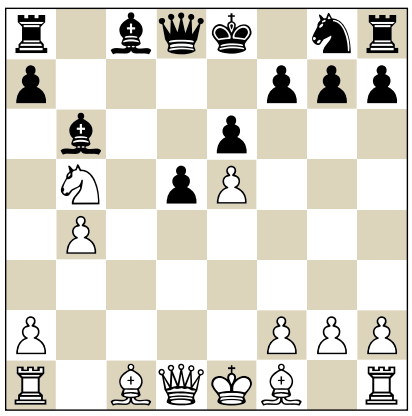


10.b4! A great novelty, found by my second Csaba Balogh. It is not easy for Black to find the right reaction, especially over the board.

10...♗b6

The most critical answer. Of course, 10...♗e7 is a possible reply, but this cannot be Black's idea. Now the knight on g8 is blocked and White has more space: 11.♗e3 ♘h6 12.♗d3, and things look nice for White.

11.♘b5



11...♗c7?

What a big positional mistake. Khenkin played this move quite fast and confidently, which surprised me a lot. Now it is clear that White is going to have a 'much' better position.

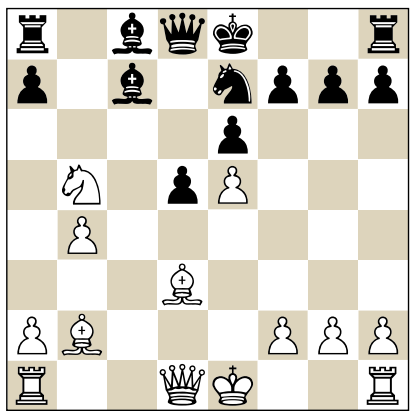
The only critical position would appear after 11...♕h4 12.♘d6+ ♔e7 (12...♔f8 13.♕f3 f6 14.♗f4 gives White a large advantage) 13.♕d2, with a very complex position.

12.♗b2

Of course I was tempted to take immediately: 12.♘xc7+, but then I thought that this option would probably not run away. The only available square for the black bishop is b8, and that is not looking great. So maybe I can get even more than just a solid plus, as would be the case after 12.♘xc7+.

12...♘e7 13.♗d3

Not allowing Black to castle in view of 14.♕c2, with a double attack on c7 and h7.



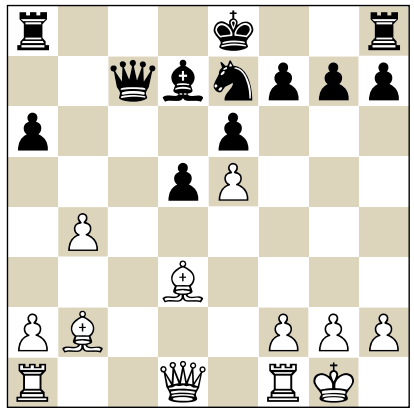
13...a6?!

After this move my position is just perfect.

13...♗b8 would clearly have been a better try, to keep at least some theoretical chances to get back into the game. After 14.0-0 White has an easy plan with f4/♘d4, but Black is still fighting here.

14.♘xc7+ ♕xc7 15.0-0 ♗d7

Before playing 16.♕g4 I had a long think. I had to make my 'winning' plan and there really were a lot of tempting options. It is clear that Black's only chance is to play ...♗b5 at some stage. White's idea is simple: to put something on d4 and play a4 and b5 to create a passed pawn.



16.♕g4! Quite a precise move, not giving Black any hopes.

16...0-0 There is nothing else to do.

17.♖fc1

It is very useful for White to keep the rook on a1, in order to be able to play a4 in the future.

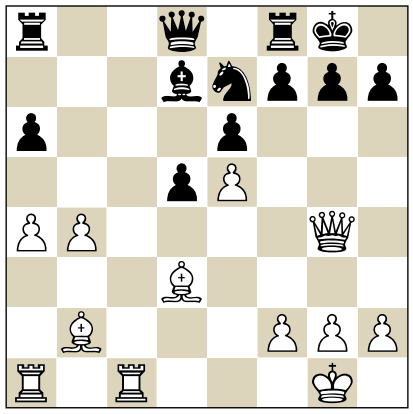
Of course, I should not get greedy with 17.♗xh7+?! ♔xh7 18.♕h4+ ♔g8 19.♕xe7 ♕c2, and because of the active queen Black would have good chances to escape.

17...♕d8

After 17...♕b7, 18.♗xh7+ already renders a much better version for White: 18...♔xh7 19.♕h4+ ♔g8 20.♕xe7, and White is a full pawn up.

18.a4

Arkadij Naiditsch: '21.♖xd5! would have ended my suffering having to sit opposite Khenkin on the spot!'



I have made my dream come true. Black has not been in time to play ...♗b5 and all my pieces are very well placed.

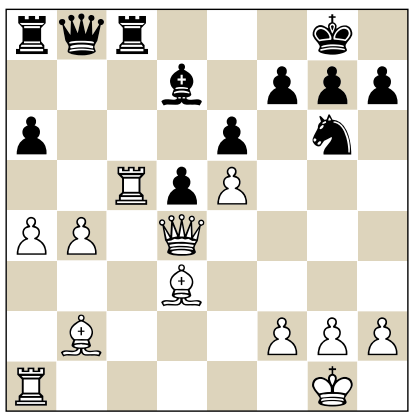
18...♘g6 It's not an easy task to find a move for Black, but on g6 the knight is completely out of the game. The natural square for the black knight would be c6.

19.♖c5

The white rook is going to a very sweet place on a5.

19...♕b8 20.♕d4 ♖c8

In this position I played almost with out any thinking.



21.♖a5?

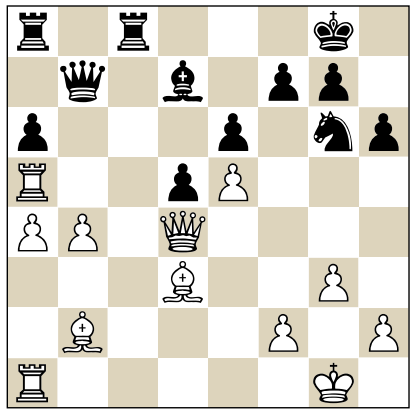
Very logical and most simple, but I missed a win in one move!

21.♖xd5! would have ended my suffering having to sit opposite Khenkin on the spot!: 21...exd5 22.e6 ♕e5 23. exd7!, and the game would have been over.

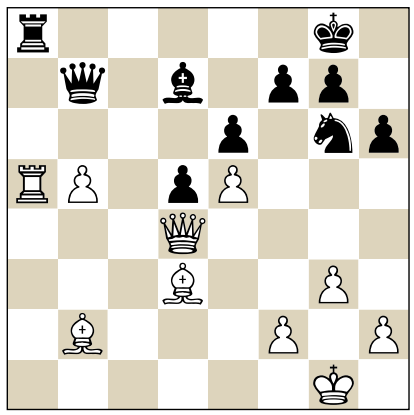
21...♕b7 22.g3

Of course, I could have played 22.b5 immediately, but there was no reason to hurry. There is nothing wrong with a safety 'hole', and 22.g3 also restricts the movements of the black knight.

22...h6



23.b5 Finally. **23...axb5 24.axb5 ♖xa5 25.♖xa5 ♖a8** It looks like White's position is totally winning, but still some precise moves are needed.



26.♖a6?! Not the best one.

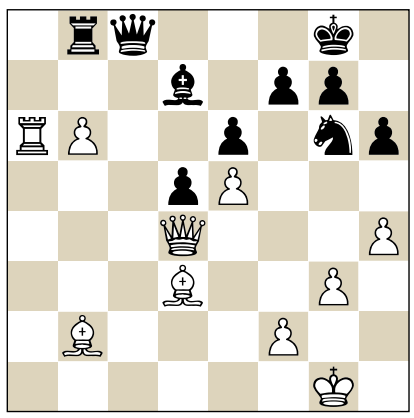
The simple 26.♖xa8+ ♕xa8 27.♕b4 would have ended the game very soon. White's next move is 28.♕d6 or 28.b6, or even 28.♗a3. Black is totally paralysed.

26...♕c8 27.h4

I still had the chance to play 27.♖xa8, but somehow a move like 27.h4 looked very 'pretty' to me.

27...♖b8 28.b6

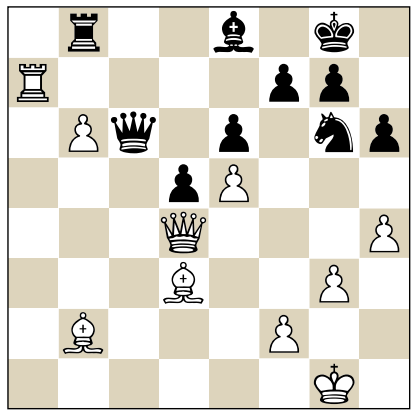
Now it looks as if on my next move ♖a7 should be just killing.



28...♕c6?!

The right way to play was 28...♕d8!, and funnily enough Black gets some chances to escape!: 29.h5 ♘e7 (now the knight is getting to the c6-square) 30.♕c5 ♘c6 31.♕d6, and although obviously White is still doing much better, Black's position is not lost.

29.♖a7 ♗e8

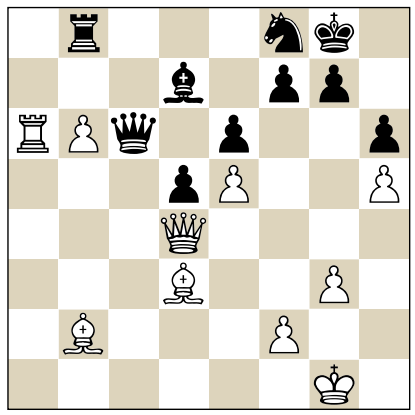


30.♖a6 I decided to go back, as I had seen the line below.

After 30.♗a3 Black has nothing better than 30...♖xb6 31.♗xg6 fxg6 32.♕f4 ♖b7 33.♖xb7 ♕xb7 34.♕f8+ ♔h7 35.♕xe8 ♕b1+ 36.♔h2 ♕e1 37.♗c5 ♕xe5, and of course White is winning here. Still, I thought that 'maybe' the win here would require some minimal technique. I wanted to finish the game in a more dynamic way.

30...♗d7 Black has got nothing better than to repeat moves.

31.h5 So, the 'other' way. **31...♘f8**



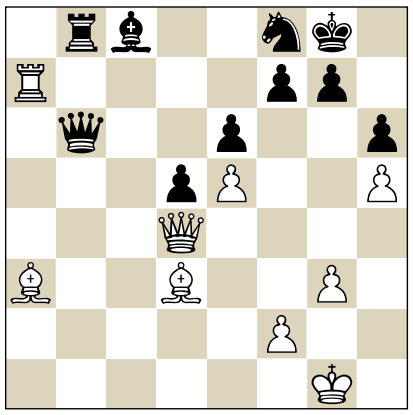
32.♗a3 Of course, by now I had seen the little trick that we will see in just a couple of moves.

32...♗c8

Black needs to go for the b6-pawn.

33.♖a7 ♕xb6

In case of 33...♖xb6, 34.♖xf7! would end the game in a similar way.



34.♖xf7! A pretty move, but not the only one. 34.♕xb6 ♖xb6 35.♖a8 ♖c6 36.♗b5 ♖c3 37.♗xf8 ♔xf8 38.♗a6 would lead to a position a piece up for White.

34...♔xf7 34...♕xd4 35.♖xf8 mate would have been a beauty ☺.

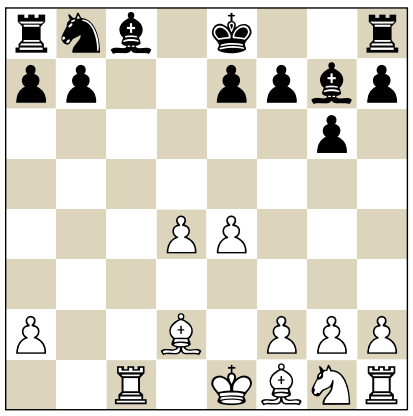
35.♕f4+ ♔e8 36.♕xf8+ ♔d7 37.♗b5+ Black resigned.

A nice and welcome finish of quite a fighting tournament for me!

NOTES BY
Jan Timman

GI 4.1 – D85
Vladimir Kramnik
Fabiano Caruana
Dortmund 2013 (8)

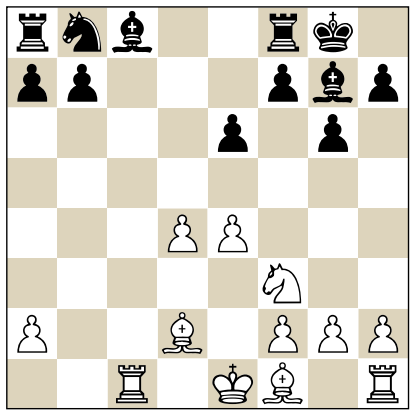
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7 7.♗e3 c5 8.♖c1 ♕a5 9.♕d2 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♕xd2+ 11.♗xd2



Two years ago, Kramnik won an impressive game against Giri in Dortmund with this system. Meanwhile, good defensive systems have been found for Black. Caruana had also faced it previously as Black.

11...0-0 12.♘f3 e6

An important alternative is 12...♗g4 in order to put optimal pressure on the white centre. With the text, Black prepares for the development of his queen's knight to c6.

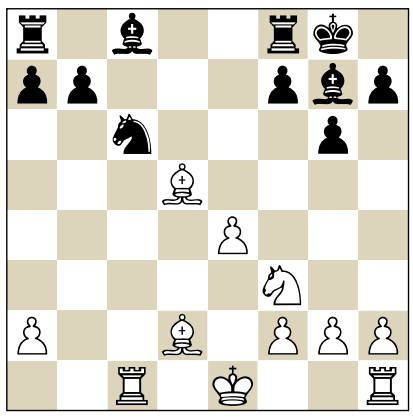


13.♗c4

Kramnik decides to go for a pretty unpretentious plan. The crucial move is 13.h4, intending to meet 13...♘c6 with 14.e5.

With the text, White aims for d4-d5, but this is not particularly impressive. In the open position that now arises, the black queenside majority will make itself felt.

13...♘c6 14.d5 exd5 15.♗xd5

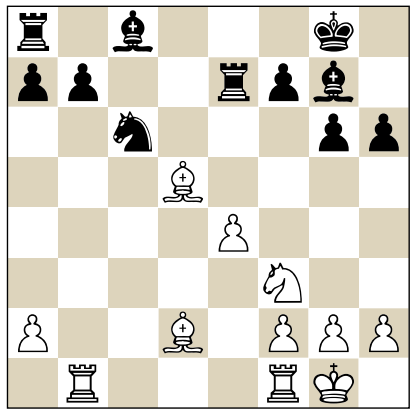


15...h6

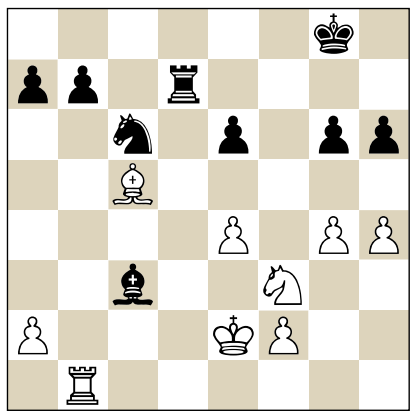
A slight hesitation. In Bazant-Ftacnik (1992), Black played 15...♗e6 at once and equalized fairly easily. The isolated pawn Black gets after the bishop exchange is compensated for by his queenside majority.

16.0-0 ♖e8 17.♖b1 ♖e7

Finally, Black has to prepare the development of his bishop. He has no reason to worry, as White will be unable to reinforce his position to any great extent.



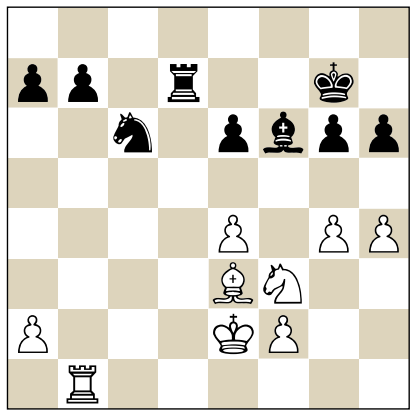
18.♖fc1 ♗e6 19.♗xe6 fxe6 20.♔f1 ♖d8 21.♗e3 ♖d3 22.♘e1 ♖d8 23.h4 ♖f7 24.♘f3 ♖d3 25.♗c5 ♖fd7 26.♔e2 ♖c3 27.♖xc3 ♗xc3 28.g4



After advancing his king White starts expanding on the kingside, but for the moment there is no need for Black to get worried.

28...♗f6 29.♗e3 ♔g7

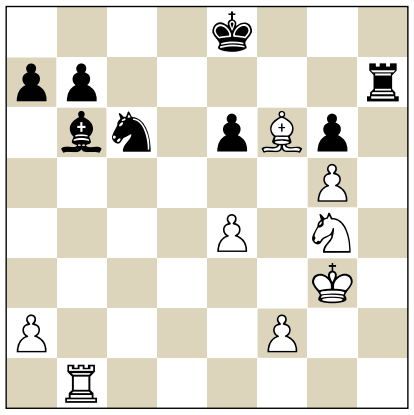
This inaccuracy allows White to launch an initiative on the kingside. Stronger was 29...♗g7, intending to meet the advance 30.g5 with 30...h5.



30.g5 Forcing Black to capture on g5, with the important point that White

gets square g4 for his knight. Now Black has a permanent weakness: his g-pawn. He will have to guard against losing this pawn without getting active counterplay in return.

30...hxg5 31.hxg5 ♗e7 32.♗d2 ♗d8 33.♗c3+ ♔g8 34.♗f6 ♗b6 35.♘h2 ♖h7 36.♘g4 ♔f8 37.♔f3 ♔e8 38.♔g2 ♖h4 39.♔g3 ♖h7



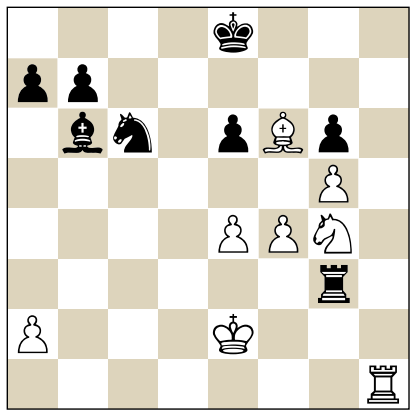
40.f4 A remarkable decision. White reinforces his kingside pawn structure at the expense of the natural protection of pawn f2 for his king. The computer prefers the aesthetic retreat 40.♗a1, followed by the knight going to f6. After 40...♗d8 41.♘f6+ ♗xf6 42.gxf6 White has a strong passed pawn, but the problem is that Black will probably manage to throw up an effective blockade.

Kramnik must have felt that it was better to keep all minor pieces on the board in order to make Black's defence more difficult. As a result, the second part of the game is far more interesting than the rather unexciting first part.

40...♖d7 41.♖h1 ♖d3+ 42.♔g2 ♖d2+ 43.♔f3 ♖d3+ 44.♔g2 ♖d2+ 45.♔f3 ♖d3+ 46.♔e2

Avoiding the draw. But White cannot prevent Black from retaining active counterplay.

46...♖g3

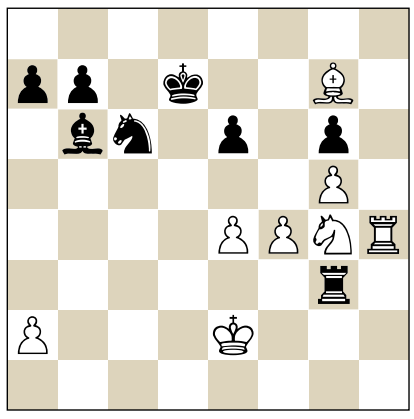


47.♖h4

As it's still too early for the knight to go to e5, White covers it, again with the aim to maintain the tension.

47...♔d7 48.♗g7

A rather vague move. White is content to wait and see, confident that Black will be unable to increase his initiative substantially.



48...♘d4+

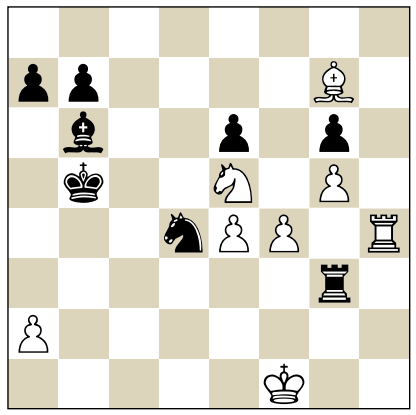
According to the computer, Black could safely have gone for the white a-pawn with 48...♖g2+ 49.♔f3 ♖xa2, but in practice this is a difficult decision, because with 50.♘e5+ ♘xe5+ 51.♗xe5, followed by 52.♖h6, White then captures the g-pawn by force.

48...♔d6 was probably a better defence than the text, when 49.♗f8+ is met by the retreat 49...♔c7. The white bishop is not optimally placed on f8.

49.♔f1 ♔c6

The point of the previous move. The black king voluntarily moves up the board – a risky plan, as we will see.

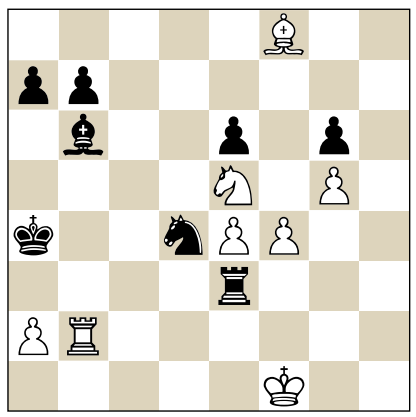
50.♘e5+ ♔b5



51.♖h2! A strong defensive intermediate move. Less good was capturing on g6, as after 51.♘xg6 ♘f3, followed by 52...♘d2+, Black would recapture the pawn with active play.

51...♖e3 52.♖b2+ ♔a4 53.♗f8

Again, Kramnik maintains the tension. The computer prefers 53.♘xg6, with the intention of exchanging on d4 after 53...♖xe4. Kramnik had probably seen that this approach would just fall short of being enough for a win.

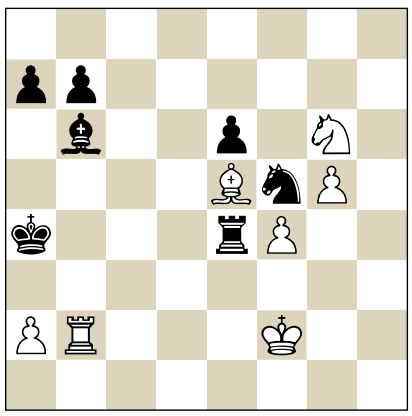


Dortmund 2013 — cat. XIX

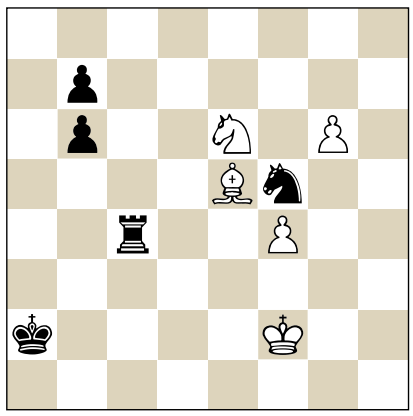
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		TPR
1	Michael Adams	IGM	ENG	2740	*	½	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	½	7	2926
2	Vladimir Kramnik	IGM	RUS	2784	½	*	1	½	0	1	1	1	½	1	6½	2867
3	Peter Leko	IGM	HUN	2737	½	0	*	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	4½	2706
4	Arkadij Naiditsch	IGM	GER	2710	0	½	0	*	1	0	½	1	1	½	4½	2709
5	Dmitry Andreikin	IGM	RUS	2727	0	1	½	0	*	½	0	½	1	½	4	2664
6	Georg Meier	IGM	GER	2610	½	0	½	1	½	*	½	0	½	½	4	2677
7	Fabiano Caruana	IGM	ITA	2796	0	0	½	½	1	½	*	0	½	1	4	2656
8	Wang Hao	IGM	CHN	2752	0	0	½	0	½	1	1	*	0	1	4	2661
9	Igor Khenkin	IGM	GER	2605	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	1	*	½	3½	2641
10	Daniel Fridman	IGM	GER	2629	½	0	½	½	½	½	0	0	½	*	3	2593

It's 10 p.m. and the stage is virtually empty. Watched by arbiters Alexander Bakh and Andrzej Filipowicz, only Vladimir Kramnik and Fabiano Caruana are still at work.

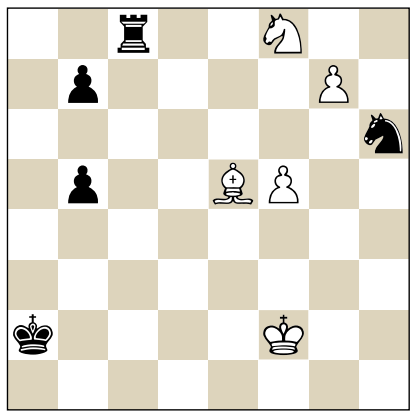
53...♗a5
Preventing the check on b4. But Black could also have captured on e4, since he is fine after 53...♖xe4 54.♖b4+ ♔a5 55.♘xg6 ♔a6. It is psychologically difficult for a defender, however, to give so much ground.
54.♘xg6 ♖xe4 55.♗d6
Kramnik consistently continues to avoid minor piece exchanges. The computer regards 55.♗c5 as the strongest move, but then White would have to swap on d4 after 55...b6, after which he would not have enough of an advantage to create realistic winning chances.
55...♘f5 56.♗e5 ♘e3+ 57.♔e2 ♘f5+ 58.♔f2 ♗b6+



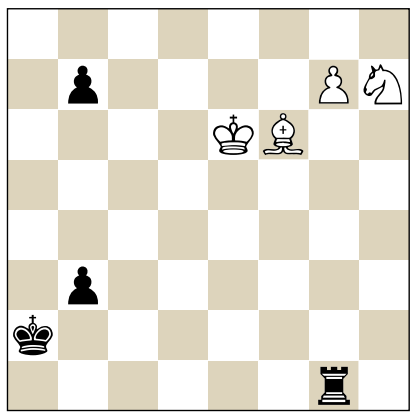
59.♖xb6!
White consistently refused to give his bishop for the black knight, but now he is prepared to give his rook for the black bishop. The exchange sacrifice is not winning, but it does change the character of the position. Now it will be a race between two connected white passed pawns on the kingside and one black passed pawn on the queenside.
59...axb6 60.♘f8 ♔a3
More cautious was 60...♔b5, in order to pick up the a–pawn with the rook and possibly use the king in the defence; but even after the text the game remains within the drawing margins.
61.♘xe6 ♔xa2 62.g6 ♖c4



63.♘d4!
An elegant finesse. Black cannot take the knight, as doing so would make the white pawns unstoppable.
63...♘h6 This looks like a passive position for the knight, but the outside square is, in fact, the best one to hinder the advance of the white pawns most effectively.
64.g7 ♖c5
Stopping the advance of the f-pawn. The alternative 64...♖c8 was just sufficient for the draw as well.
65.♘e6 ♖c8 66.♘f8 b5 67.f5



67...♖c2+
Although this was hard to see, Black could also have pushed his b-pawn, as he has nothing to fear after 67...b4 68.f6 b3 69.f7 ♘xf7 70.g8♕ ♘xe5. White even has to be careful here not to find himself in serious trouble. This is why a move like 69.♔f3 is better, as it will unavoidably lead to a draw.
68.♔f3 ♖c1 69.f6 ♖f1+ 70.♔e4 ♘g8 71.♔d5 b4
Just in time.
72.♘h7 b3 73.♔e6 ♘xf6 74.♗xf6 ♖g1

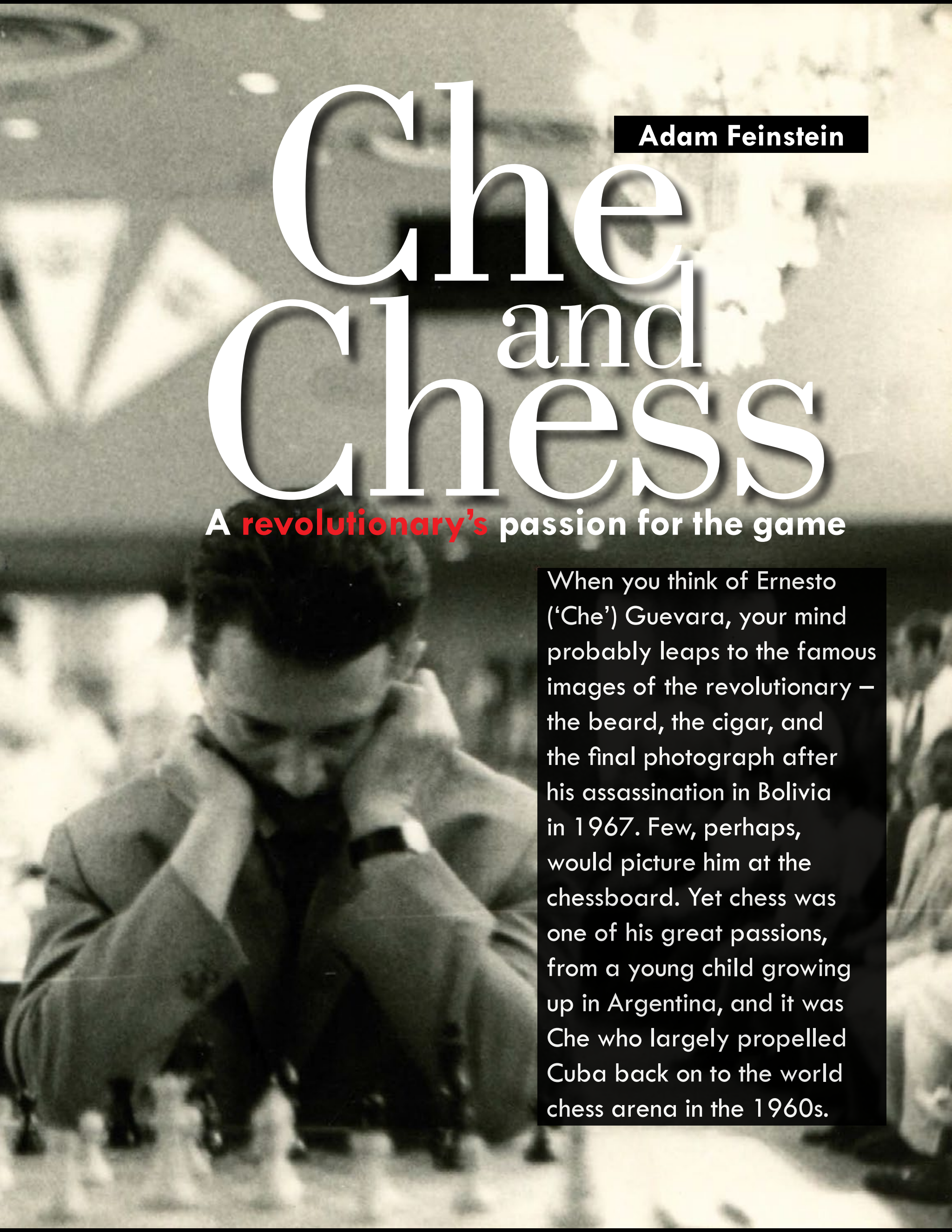


75.♗g5 A last-ditch trap.
75...♖xg5?? And Caruana falls for it! After 75...b2 76.g8♕ b1♕ the game would have fizzled out in a draw.
76.♘xg5
Even top grandmasters can forget that the board is sometimes smaller than it looks. After 76...b2 77.♘e4 the black b-pawn is suddenly within reach of the knight.
Black resigned. ■

Che Guevara

Che Guevara watches Svetozar Gligoric deeply immersed in thought at the 1962 Capablanca Memorial. Despite his duties as Industry Minister, the ardent chess fan frequently visited the tournament venue.

COURTESY DAVID JARRETT



Che and Chess

Adam Feinstein

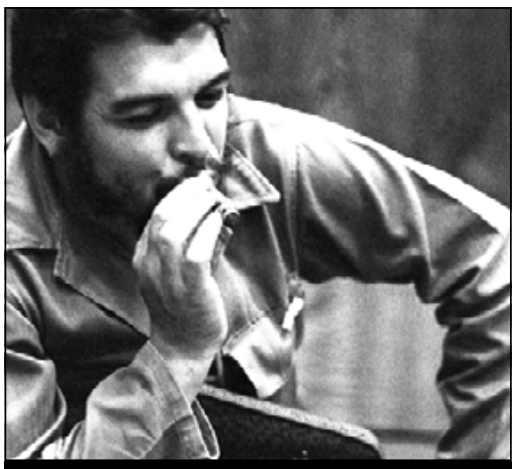
A revolutionary's passion for the game

When you think of Ernesto ('Che') Guevara, your mind probably leaps to the famous images of the revolutionary – the beard, the cigar, and the final photograph after his assassination in Bolivia in 1967. Few, perhaps, would picture him at the chessboard. Yet chess was one of his great passions, from a young child growing up in Argentina, and it was Che who largely propelled Cuba back on to the world chess arena in the 1960s.

Some sources claim that he learned the game from his father, Ernesto Guevara Lynch. Others, however, maintain that he was taught by a Spanish family, the Aguilars, immigrants who had settled in Ernesto's home town of Alta Gracia in central Argentina, after fleeing Franco's oppression. Che's father sympathised with the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War and welcomed the Aguilars with open arms. Whoever young Ernesto's teachers were, it seems that he began participating in local chess tournaments from the age of 12. In fact, he also enjoyed swimming, mountaineering, golf, football, boxing, shooting, table tennis, fishing and – most ardently – rugby. His father tried to wean him away from this sport because it did not help his severe asthma attacks. Ernesto revealed his stubborn streak, responding: 'I love rugby and I'm going to keep on playing it, even if I burst.'

But chess was, in his own words, 'mi segunda novia' (my second girlfriend). In 1939, Che's father informed his 11-year-old son with enormous excitement that the great Cuban former World Champion, José Raúl Capablanca, would be playing top board for his country at the eighth Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires. Che was fascinated and followed the tournament closely from Alta Gracia. Capa won the Gold Medal for his overall performance and Che later insisted, as we shall see, that it was the Buenos Aires Olympiad and Capablanca's achievements there which had first aroused his interest in Cuba. In other words, the future guerrilla, who would fight alongside Fidel Castro in the Sierra Maestra in the 1950s to topple the Batista dictatorship, had initially acquired his passion for Cuba over the chessboard!

The Second World War broke out during the Buenos Aires Olympiad and many participants were unable to return home to Europe. Among the chess players who remained in Argentina and took on Argentinian nationality was the great Polish-born grandmaster, Miguel Najdorf, who was forced to leave his wife, daughter and four brothers behind in Poland and never saw them again. Najdorf would become a friend of Che's. They first met over the chessboard at Mar del Plata in 1949 when, as a 21-year-old medical student, Che was roundly defeated in a simultaneous display. Che never forgot that game.

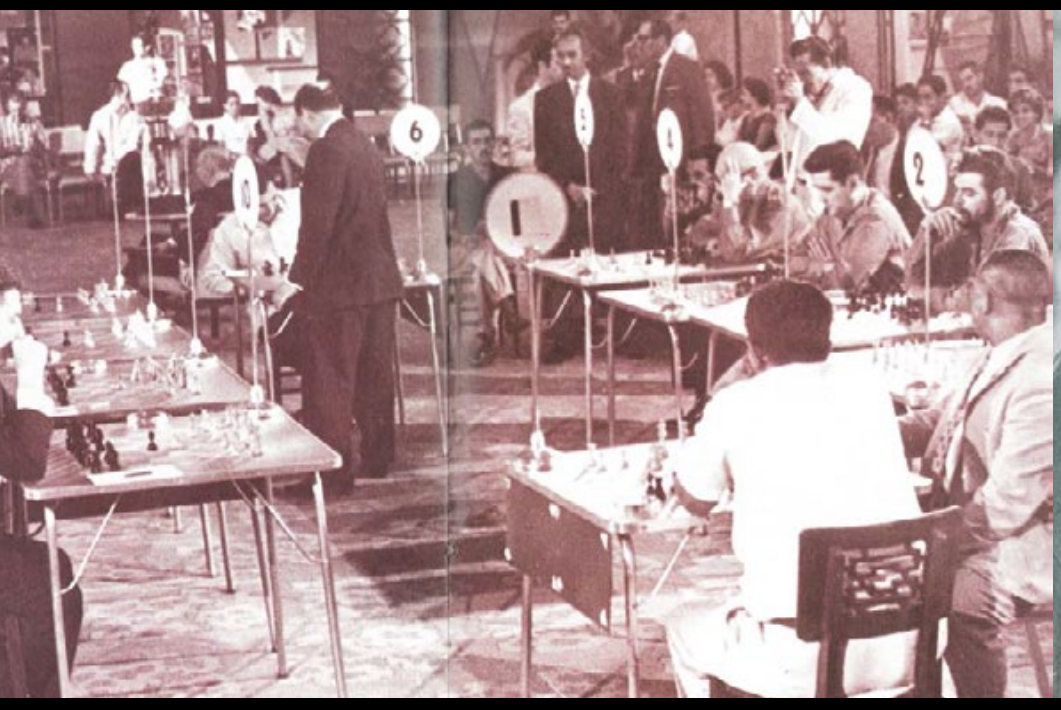


Chess was, in his own words, 'mi segunda novia' (my second girlfriend).

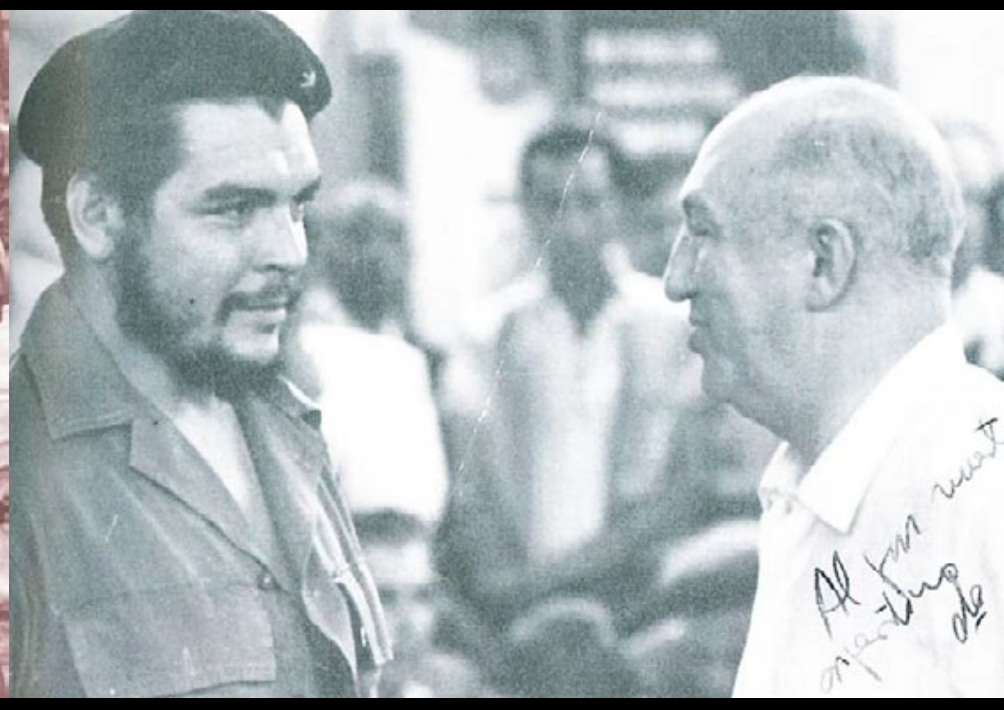
In the late 1940s, Ernesto was an assiduous reader of chess books – he was said to have a personal collection of fifty or more. He often played against Gregorio, the brother of Alberto Granado (the youthful friend and future travelling companion of Che during their 1951 trip around Latin America) at the Salón de la Confitería in the Calle Roma 525 in Buenos Aires, a property owned by Ernesto's grandmother, Cecilia.

In 1948, he took part in the tenth University Olympiad in Buenos Aires in two sports: chess and athletics (in spite of his life-long asthma). After that, chess was to take second place in his life for a while. While still a student at the University of Buenos Aires, Che travelled throughout South America and was horrified by the poverty, hunger and disease he witnessed. Those trips, in 1950 and 1951, were turned into a 2004 film, *The Motorcycle Diaries*, directed by Walter Salles.

Chess was never far from his mind, despite his deepening political activities. In 1954, in Guatemala City, Che sought out the woman who would become his wife, Hilda Gadea Acosta, a Peruvian economist who was well-connected politically as a member of the Left-leaning American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) and who introduced Guevara to a number of high-level officials in the Guatemalan government of President Jacobo Arbenz. Che also established contact with a group of Cuban exiles linked to Fidel Castro through the July 26, 1953 attack on the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba. In May 1954, a CIA-sponsored coup toppled the Arbenz administration and installed the Right-wing dictatorship of Carlos Castillo Armas. Che made repeated appeals on behalf of the Arbenz regime, which put his life in danger. After Hilda was arrested, he sought protection inside the Argentine consulate in Guatemala and, while waiting for a safe-conduct pass, he enjoyed playing chess with some of his fellow refugees.



The first time Miguel Najdorf and Che Guevara (seated at Board 3) met was in a simul in Mar del Plata in 1949.



Reunited in Havana in 1962. Che presented this photo to Najdorf and wrote on it: 'To the grand master of chess. Che.'

Che married Hilda in Mexico in September 1955. That same year, while lecturing on medicine at Mexico City's National Autonomous University and also working as a news photographer for the Latina News Agency, he sought out chess opponents. One was the Mexican Alfonso Guillén Zelaya with whom he played blindfold games. Another was Professor Alberto Bayo y Giroud. Bayo was an intriguing man in his own right. A poet and essayist, he had fought against Franco with the Loyalists in the Spanish Civil War. He was also soon to commit himself to the cause of overthrowing another brutal dictatorship, that of Fulgencio Batista in Cuba – and to take the young Che with him.

Che met Raúl Castro in June 1955 and he was subsequently introduced to his older brother, Fidel Castro. During a long conversation with Fidel on the night of their first meeting, Guevara concluded that Castro's cause was the one for which he had been searching and before daybreak he had signed up as a member of the July 26 Movement. From then on, Che's chess-playing friend, Professor Alberto Bayo, became his military instructor, General Bayo, who called him 'the best guerrilla of them all'. It was not for nothing that the Cuban diplomat and journalist, Giraldo Mazola, would draw a clear analogy between the two activities, writing many years later, in a tribute to Che: 'As a guerrilla fighter, you realised that, just as in chess, numerical or material superiority is not an absolute or insuperable advantage, if the chess concepts of time and space are applied correctly. You also understood that generalising the habit of evaluating all possible variations before making a decision is a valid principle in chess and very important and useful in life and for the Revolution itself.'

At one point, the Mexican police arrested both Fidel Castro and Che. As Castro later told the Italian journalist, Gianni Minná, while they were in detention, he and Che played chess. 'That's how we killed time ... Che knew more [about the game] than me because he'd studied it a little. I played more by intuition. He played like a guerrilla and I took some games off him, but mostly he won because he understood the game better and he really liked chess ...'

Leaving the Mexican port of Veracruz aboard the *Granma*, bound for Cuba, on December 2, 1956, Che was careful to pack a chess set in his rucksack, although he could be heard frequently complaining about the lack of opponents on the voyage. Less than two years later, in July 1958, while waiting with Castro's forces to topple the Batista dictatorship, he played the first of many games in Cuba's Sierra Maestra mountains against Comandante Sergio Papito Seguera, at a spot named Mompié. In January 1959, despite his prominent role as second-in-command of Castro's operation, he continued to give chess lessons to a number of soldiers.

Jorge Vega Fernández, who fought with Castro and is now president of the Chess Confederation of the Americas, recalled playing chess with Che in the Sierra Maestra with wooden pieces and a makeshift board drawn on a table. Vega told Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam that the two men would frequently play by candlelight, because there was no electricity in their mountain hide-out. And despite Che's liking for five-minute games, Vega could not recall their ever using a chess clock: 'He had food, a blanket, a hammock, a chess set – but no clock!'

Following his divorce from Hilda, Guevara married Aleida March, a soldier in Castro's army, in either March or June, 1959, depending on whom you believe. They had four children together: Aleida, Camilo, Celia and Ernesto. After the triumph of Castro's Revolution in 1959, although busy in his duties as Industry Minister, Che was determined not to relinquish his love for chess. Vega said that Che would invite him to play at his office, 'where the conditions were much better!' (Che would later be best man at Vega's wedding.) And when time permitted, Che threw himself whole-heartedly into promoting the game in Cuba. In 1960, his support was decisive in allowing a Cuban

Facing a tricky Catalan in a simul against Viktor Kortchnoi in 1963.

Playing blitz with American GM Larry Evans,

delegation to take part in that year's fourteenth Chess Olympiad in Leipzig, East Germany. On June 6, 1961, he inaugurated the first tournament for teams representing Cuba's state organisations. The national sports director, José Llanusa, made the first move down the telephone line from Santiago, Cuba's second-largest city, in a direct call to Che in Havana, who made his reply before turning to the audience and declaring: 'Chess is a pastime but it is also an educational tool to aid reasoning. The nations with great chess teams have also become world leaders in other areas.'

In October 1961, despite the fact that Cuba remained in a state of severe political turmoil following the United States' failed attempt to oust the Castro regime through a military invasion of the Bay of Pigs in April of that year, Che coolly instructed one of his officers at their barracks in Pinar del Río: 'Go to Havana and bring back six wooden chess sets. There's no telling how long this war's going to last.'

Perhaps one of Guevara's greatest chess achievements was his immense role in the establishment of the prestigious annual Capablanca Memorial Tournaments in Havana. These would become the best-paid tournaments in the world. As Industry Minister and director of Cuba's National Bank, Che covered the costs. Both Che and Fidel Castro were daily visitors to the inaugural tournament held from April 20 to May 20, 1962 at the Habana Libre Hotel. This was the former Havana Hilton, which had been opened in 1958 as a gambling hall. Castro's revolutionaries took over the building within a year of their victory in 1959 and the new government occupied one floor of the enormous building and renamed it. The 1962 event was won by Najdorf ahead of a very strong field of 22 players including Lev Polugaevsky, Boris Spassky, Svetozar Gligoric and Vassily Smyslov.

Away from chess, the political situation remained extremely tense: the Soviet President, Nikita Khrushchev, had just proposed the idea of placing Soviet nuclear missiles on Cuban soil to deter any future invasion attempt by the Americans. With this very much in mind, Che declared at the tournament's closing ceremony: 'At this moment of global conflict between very different ideological systems, chess is capable of uniting people from [those] divergent political systems.'

While Najdorf was still in Havana, Che asked him whether he would agree to give a blind simultaneous display against members of the Cuban government. It was a remarkable occasion: Fidel played top board for the regime, his brother, Raúl, was on second board, President Osvaldo Dorticós third and, back down on eight board, sat Che. The differing versions of how Che's encounter with Najdorf concluded are bewildering. According to one eye-witness, José Luis Barreras – National Commissioner for Chess from the triumph of the Revolution up until the 1980s and afterwards an international chess arbiter – at around the twelfth move, Najdorf offered a draw. Che refused, declaring: 'I've come to win or to lose.' At move 17, Najdorf once again offered a draw and this time, Che accepted. However, one of Najdorf's daughters tells a different story. She insists, quoting her father, that he had gone on to win the game. Najdorf also claimed in his chess column in the Argentinian daily, *Clarín*, that he had offered a draw but Guevara refused it, leaving him with no option but winning. He recalled later that Che's reaction to his initial offer was: 'What do you mean, draw? No way! Have you forgotten that we played before? In 1949, in Mar del Plata. I was a student of medicine and you mated me horribly in a simul in just a few moves. I've dreamt for so many years of gaining my revenge. So either I lose or I win here. But it will never be a draw!' Najdorf added: 'The game continued and in the end, I won. My opponent smiled and congratulated me whole-heartedly.'

Najdorf spoke very highly of Guevara in later years: 'Among the most pleasant memories from my stay in Havana in 1962 is my meeting with Che. I found out later that, as a student, he used to visit the Chess Club in Buenos Aires. What a chess lover!

who came to Cuba as a journalist.

COURTESY DAVID JARRETT

Che Guevara chatting with arbiter Barreras and Vassily Smyslov at the Capablanca Memorial in 1962.

He loved chess as much as freedom ... He was quite a strong player. He preferred an aggressive style and he enjoyed sacrifices, but these were well-prepared. I can say that he was a first-class player.'

On June 10, 1962, Che made a gift of a pocket chess set to Cuba's national poet, Nicolás Guillén, telling him: 'Let's see if you learn how to play!' In August that year, Che drew against the visiting Czech Grandmaster, Miroslav Filip, at a simultaneous display at the Cuban Industry Ministry headquarters. Once again, Guevara was instrumental in permitting the Cuban team to participate in the fifteenth Olympiad in Varna, Bulgaria, in September-October, 1962.

Che himself took part in the tournament organised by the Cuban Industry Ministry in July-August, 1963. He won 20 out of 24 games, obtaining second prize overall. Handing out the awards at the Rió Cristal Restaurant in Havana on August 24, he publicly acknowledged, for the first time, that he had found out about Cuba's existence through following Capablanca's games at the Buenos Aires Olympiad back in 1939. 'When Capablanca died [in 1942], chess was largely forgotten. Now, with the Revolution, enthusiasm [for the game] has been revived. New chess talents are emerging every day. There will be many high-quality players, other Capablancas, other Tals. We will have grandmasters, and that will also be thanks to the Revolution.'

The following day saw the opening of the second Capablanca Memorial Tournament in Havana. It was eventually won by Victor Kortchnoi. According to the Dutch grandmaster Genna Sosonko, Che was one of Kortchnoi's opponents in a simultaneous display during his visit to Cuba. Sosonko reported that an official had approached Kortchnoi to inform him: 'Che Guevara loves chess passionately, but he is a rather weak player. He would be extremely happy to draw his game against you.' Kortchnoi apparently nodded understandingly. Later, back at the hotel, Mikhail Tal asked him how it went. 'I won them all', Kortchnoi replied. 'Against Che Guevara, too?' 'Yes,' said Kortchnoi, 'he doesn't have the faintest idea what to do against the Catalan.'

Che cannot possibly have been a weak player: he drew against Tal (World Champion from just two years earlier) and against the Yugoslav grandmaster, Petar Trifunović, when they also gave simultaneous displays in Havana. And between November 18 and December 16 that same year, he came second in the Industry Ministry Swiss tournament, winning seven out of ten games and drawing the remaining three.

The third Capablanca Memorial Tournament held in April-May 1964, once again at the Habana Libre Hotel, was interesting for the participation of an American, the grandmaster Larry Evans, despite the continuing political tensions between Cuba and the United States. The reason Evans was allowed to travel to the island was that he was also acting as a journalist, and the US State Department often allowed newsmen to travel to off-limits countries. Che took advantage of Evans' presence in Cuba to play a five-minute game with him (there is a photo showing Evans with about two minutes on his clock, while Guevara, appears still to have about five. Unless Evans had offered him time odds, Che must have been a quick blitz player!). The Capablanca Memorial tournament was won jointly by Vassily Smyslov and the East German Wolfgang Uhlmann. According to the January 1965 edition of *Chess Review*, the prize fund for this 1964 event was extraordinary for the time: tenth prize was larger than the first prize at the FIDE Interzonal tournament and the winners took home $2,500.

On May 22, 1964, Che observed a match between the Mexican and Cuban teams at the Habana Libre Hotel. A member of the Mexican contingent, the FIDE Master Armando Acevedo, recalled the impact Che's presence had on the room: 'There was an impressive atmosphere. The women couldn't take their eyes off him, smiling and whispering to each other. And we men looked at him as

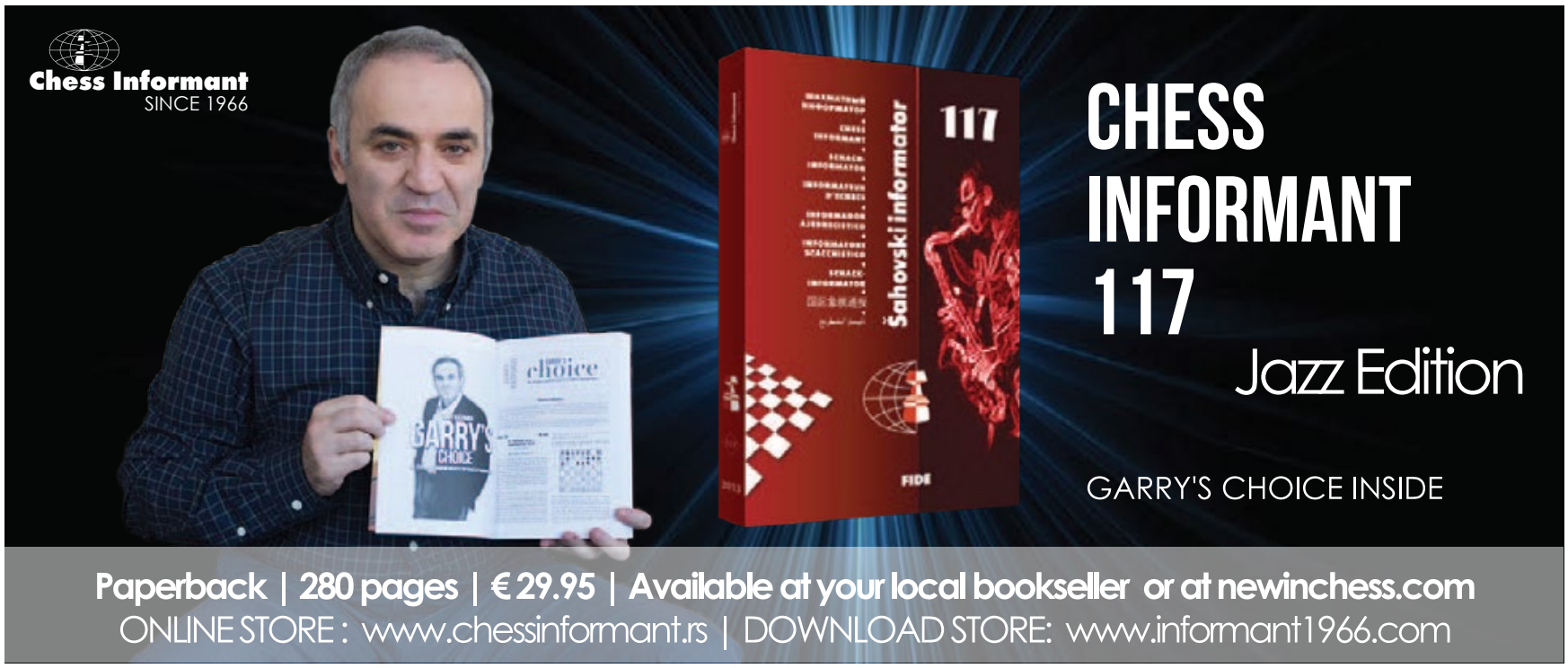
if we were witnessing a living legend. It seemed impossible to believe that we had Che walking among us. We had the opportunity to chat with him at the opening ceremony. We spoke mainly about chess in Mexico and Cuba and about the match. What was interesting was Che's personality. He had an enormous magnetism. Once he started a conversation, in the most natural way imaginable, he became the centre of attention. He had a simplicity about him and in just a few minutes, he had complete control over all of us around him ... He talked to us about his travels or of how he might be able to get to the tournament in Mar del Plata. You could tell that Che was a huge chess fan.'

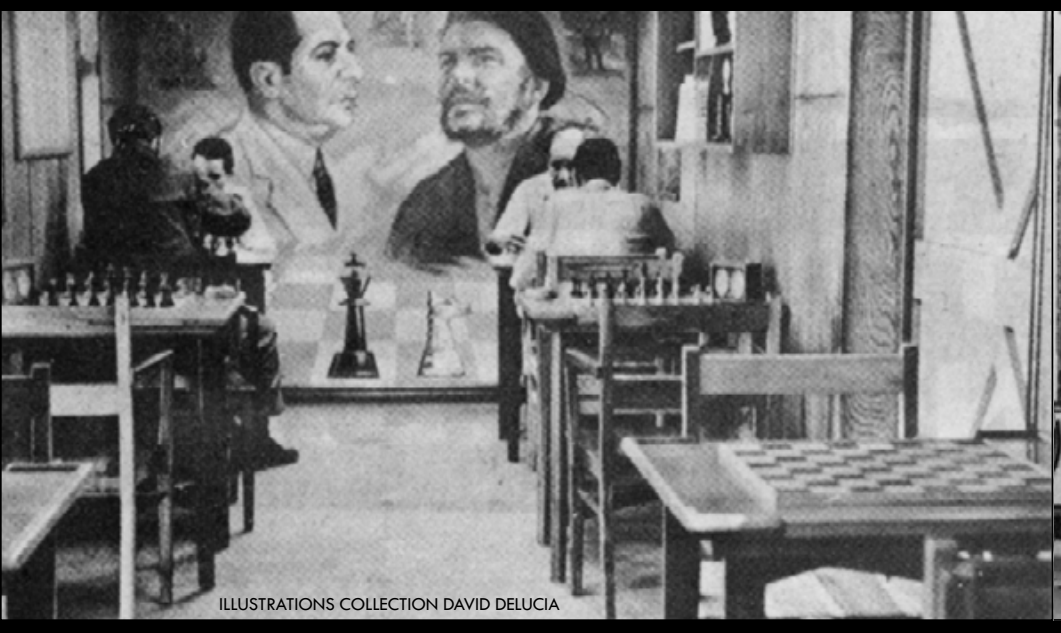
The Mexico-Cuba match lasted three days but the Mexican players stayed on in Cuba, at Che's invitation, to visit factories, farms and a number of cities outside Havana. In Camagüey, the entire Mexican team gave a remarkable simultaneous exhibition at which each player took on around 25 opponents. Later, the Mexican delegation asked whether they could play Che in a friendly game. He replied that it could not be until 3 in the morning, because that was the time he always finished work. Sure enough, he received the Mexicans at his office at the Industry Ministry on May 26 and the 'game', which actually began at 4 a.m., ended in a draw. Or so the history books state. Unfortunately, Acevedo himself rather spoils the story: 'I must mention the fact that we didn't actually play against Che. Each member of the Mexican team simply posed for the photo and, in the end, we jokingly agreed: "Game drawn".'

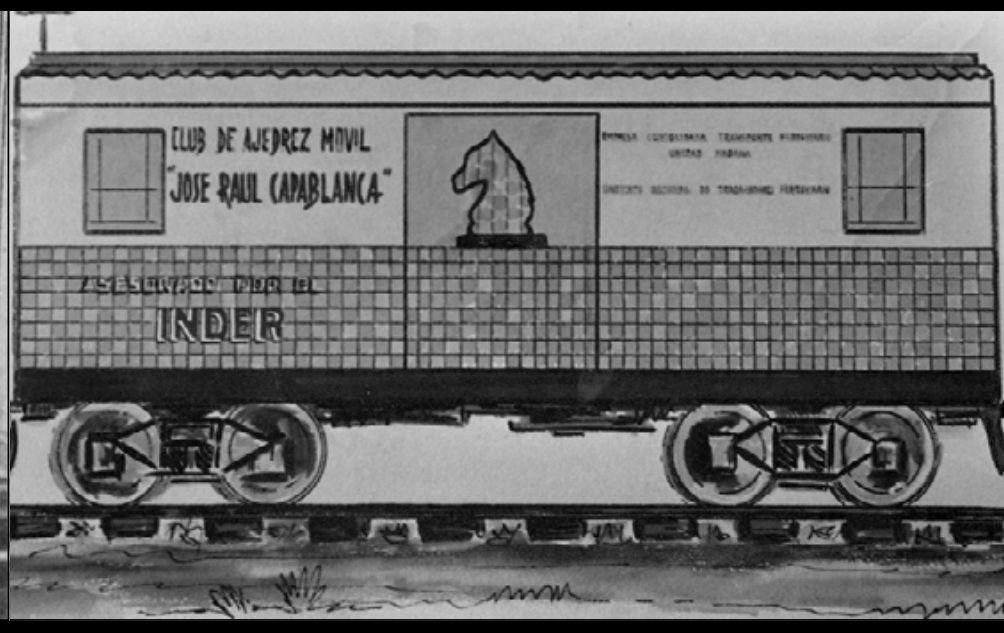
Those few days in 1964 that the Mexican delegation was in town were an extremely busy period for Guevara, chess-wise. On May 29, he beat Armando Acevedo in just 18 moves, playing black in a simultaneous display in Camagüey. Acevedo recalled: 'I never intended to give special treatment to Che Guevara, either by winning the game or "not winning it". I made several incredible blunders during the simul, especially early on. Che played well and won our game, which he very much enjoyed, as I was told by Cuban friends of his afterwards. At the end of the exhibition, some of the Cubans came up to me to thank me for losing against Che. They thought I'd let him win!'

> 'Che gave constant support, advice and suggestions to help the chess movement in Cuba.'

In the first five years of the Castro regime, 1959 to 1965, Che gave 'constant support, advice and suggestions' to help the chess movement in Cuba, in the words of José Luís Barreras. Che played a major role in ensuring Bobby Fischer's participation, for a fee of $3,000, in the fourth Capablanca Memorial Tournament in April-May 1965 – although only via telex at the Marshall Chess Club in New York, because the US State Department refused to endorse Fischer's passport as valid for visiting Havana due to the Cuban-US tensions. Capablanca's son, Dr José Raúl Capablanca Jr, relayed the moves in Havana. Even then, Fischer threatened to withdraw after he heard that Fidel Castro had called his participation a 'great propaganda victory for Cuba.' The tournament was won by Vassily Smyslov.







In the 1970s Cubans even set up chess clubs in train carriages as they passed from village to village. The mobile chess club José Raúl Capablanca was decorated on the inside with a wall-size portrait of Capa and Che.

Guevara never missed an opportunity to pull out a chess set. On a long flight to the Soviet Union in November 1964, he played three games against a colleague, Neftalí Perna, winning them all. He even found time to play during the tense sessions at the United Nations General Assembly the following month. In the Congo in April 1965, Che played chess with his comrades or offered them lessons. Likewise during his stay in Tanzania at the end of that same year. In fact, during his tour of Africa, he would often play with Comandante Sergio Serguera, either on aeroplanes or inside embassy buildings.

Che loved solving chess problems, especially three-movers. On one occasion, when the Cuban daily *Revolución* published a puzzle which he had found too easy, Che telephoned the man responsible for the chess column, the afore-mentioned José Luis Barreras, to complain. Another time, in contrast, *Revolución* published a problem which was so difficult that only one reader managed to send in the correct solution. But Che phoned in the correct answer separately.

In October-November 1966, Havana staged the seventeenth Chess Olympiad at the Habana Libre Hotel. There was no Capablanca Memorial that year. More than 300 players from 52 nations, including Bobby Fischer, in person this time, and Samuel Reshevsky, arrived to take part in the remarkable event that was won by a Soviet team led by the World Champion, Tigran Petrosian, and included Mikhail Tal and Boris Spassky. But Che was not there to witness the Olympiad. He was on a plane bound for Bolivia and a tragic destiny. It was there, a year later, on October 9, 1967, that he was assassinated by a Cuban exile-turned CIA operative.

Since his death, American, Latin American and European writers – including Jon Lee Anderson, Régis Debray and Jorge G. Castañeda – have contributed to demystifying the image of Che Guevara in articles and extensive biographies which have explored his life and legacy in less idealistic terms. However, the British journalist, Richard Gott, writing in the *Guardian* newspaper on the day of Guevara's death, declared: 'It was difficult to recall that this man had once been one of the great figures of Latin America. It was not just that he was a great guerrilla leader; he had been a friend of Presidents as well as revolutionaries. His voice had been heard and appreciated in inter-American councils, as well as in the jungle. He was a doctor, an amateur economist, once Minister of Industry in revolutionary Cuba, and Castro's right-hand man. He may well go down in history as the greatest continental figure since Bolívar. Legends will be created around his name.'

In 2000, FIDE granted Che its highest honour, making him a posthumous Knight. This news was announced, appropriately enough, at the closing ceremony of the thirty-fifth Capablanca Memorial in 2000, by Silvino García, who in 1975 had fulfilled Guevara's prophesy by becoming Cuba's first grandmaster since the death of Capablanca in 1942. Today, Cuba is the strongest chess-playing nation in the whole Latin America, with 27 grandmasters, 22 male and 5 female.

There is, indeed, much mythologising in Che's life. Some sources say that among his closest chess friends from the late 1940s was the Chilean International Master, René Letelier, whom he supposedly met at Mar del Plata in 1949. This is not true. Letelier recalled later that during his first visit to Cuba in the 1960s to take part in the Capablanca Memorial, he was surprised to be told that someone wanted to see him and even more surprised to find it was Che. 'I remember he stopped in front of me and said: "You don't know me but I know you very well." I thought he was joking. He invited me to take tea with him and admitted that he had watched me playing in several tournaments in Mar del Plata while he was a student in Argentina. What a coincidence! Life can be so strange! Then he added: "I respect you a lot. When I was a young boy, I asked lots of players to explain their technique after the game was over and the only one who took some time to do this for me was you. I will always be grateful to you for that." You can imagine the magnificent impression he made on me. Che was always concerned for me. He sometimes brought me gifts of cigars to my room.

He was a total gentleman, and it goes without saying that the people loved him.'

The prominent Cuban writer Eduardo Heras León is a huge chess fan and also retains very pleasant memories of his encounters with Che. They first met in Moscow in 1962, when Heras was on a military mission to the Soviet capital. Heras asked him for a game of chess. Guevara refused but promised that they would play back in Cuba. Heras held out little hope of seeing this promise fulfilled. And yet, it was. 'While I was observing games in the Capablanca tournament in 1963, Che arrived. I was wearing civilian clothes. I went up to him and asked: "Do you remember me?" "Of course I do", he replied. He kept on looking at me and added: "Moscow, last year. Do you remember the promise you made?" "Yes, but I can't keep it, because it would be a fight between a lion and a monkey and in this case, I would be the monkey." With that, he entered the tournament hall. I was disappointed, but a little later I heard someone calling me. I looked up and it was Che. He gestured to me to come over. He already had the board ready and he said: "Right, let's play. With me, you play to win." We sat down and played the first rapid, five-minute game. I beat him. I had played a little more than him, had quite a bit more experience. He said: "Let's play another." I won again. The third game was drawn. That was a lovely game. He was like a little boy as he said: "A draw. I drew with you." That was my most unforgettable chess memory.'

'In 1975 Cuba's first grandmaster Silvino García dedicated his title to Che.'

Despite his charm and openness, Guevara had an austere streak – and in particular, he was a stickler for punctuality. He once arranged to play chess with José Luis Barreras. Barreras made the mistake of arriving a few minutes late. The two men chatted for a while and then Barreras asked: 'When do we start playing?' Che replied: 'Listen, discipline is vital in life. We said we'd meet at 9 p.m. and you got here late – so we won't play today.'

In his tribute written a few years after Che's assassination, Giraldo Mazola, who was himself the victim of an elegant double-rook sacrifice by Che leading to mate, said Che's contribution to the development of chess on the island was 'enormous ... You believed, and you said so many times, that it was necessary to bring chess to the masses. You predicted that Cuba would have grandmasters and that this would also be the work of the Revolution. That's why Silvino García, who became the first grandmaster in 1975, dedicated the title to you ... [Before him], only Eleazar Jiménez had gained the first International Master title many years after Capablanca. You took the time to encourage the leading players and share time with them. You found a gap in your schedule to take part, just like an ordinary person, in inter-Ministerial championships ... You attended the simultaneous displays offered by Cuban players and visiting players from other countries. You were a spectator at national and international tournaments in Cuba ... You promoted the Capablanca Memorial Tournaments ...'

Mazola added that, thanks to Che's massive contribution, Cuban television screened high-quality chess courses and the island could boast more than a hundred chess tournaments and the same number of grandmasters, international masters and FIDE masters. One of these Cuban grandmasters, Leinier Domínguez Pérez, currently the strongest player in Latin America and 2008 World Blitz Champion, declared: 'We all follow the example of Che Guevara. He was a great person with great ideas. He's a real hero for all Cubans.' In June 2008, Che's home town of Alta Gracia marked what would have been his eightieth birthday. The week-long ceremonies ended, fittingly, with a chess tournament.

What Mazola did not spell out was that, thanks to Che's fervent promotion of chess on the island, Cubans were fired with a passion for the game at the grassroots level. As the Mexican International Master, Raúl Ocampo Vargas, puts it: 'In the 1970s, Cubans even set up chess clubs in train carriages as they passed from village to village. They played in little shacks and on town squares – not always with the greatest of technique but certainly with enormous enthusiasm.'

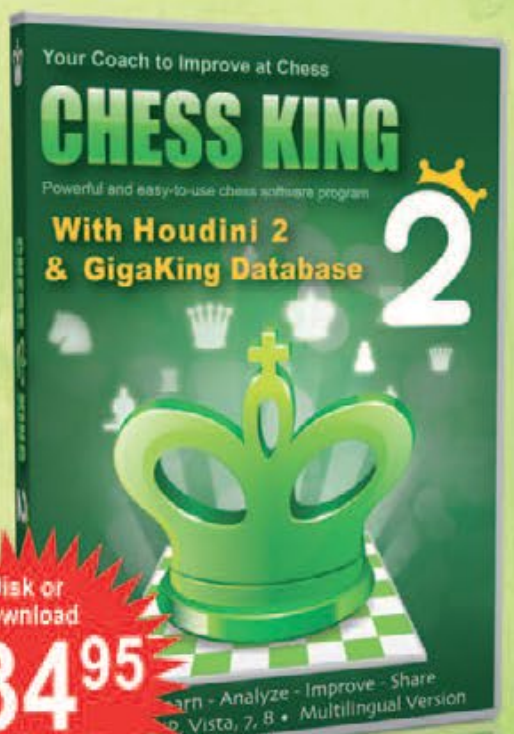
Che's chess legacy has spread far and wide, well beyond Cuba. In the mid-1990s, the Cuban embassy in Nigeria used to organise an annual chess tournament in Kwara State. They named it the Ernesto Che Guevara Memorial Chess Tournament.

On his first visit to Cuba, the Czech grandmaster, Luděk Pachman, played a few blitz games with Che. Their last meeting took place in September 1964. While pondering his next move, Che suddenly announced: 'You know, comrade Pachman, I really don't enjoy being a Minister. I would rather play chess like you, or make a revolution in Venezuela.' To which Pachman replied: 'Look, Comandante, of course it's interesting to make revolutions. But playing chess is much safer.' ■

NEW

ARE YOU A KING, A MAX, OR A PRO ?

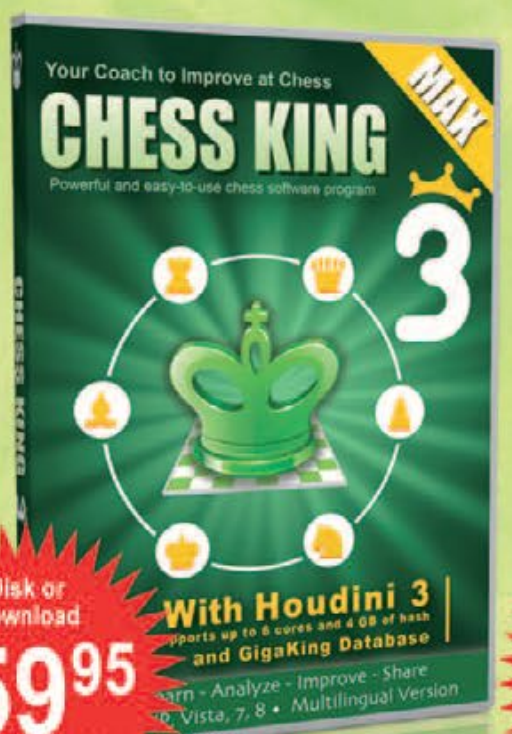
Chess King is the **top selling** PC chess software program that will help you improve at chess. It's **complete** with all the best and up-to-date tools, and it's **easy to use** for all levels. Play, learn, analyze, prepare for your opponent, store your games and share them with the world. Now in three versions, **Chess King 2 with Houdini 2**, and the even more powerful **Chess King 3 Max with Houdini 3, or Chess King 3 Pro with Houdini 3 Pro**. It's all you need in super affordable packages.



CHESS KING 2

New, complete and most affordable!

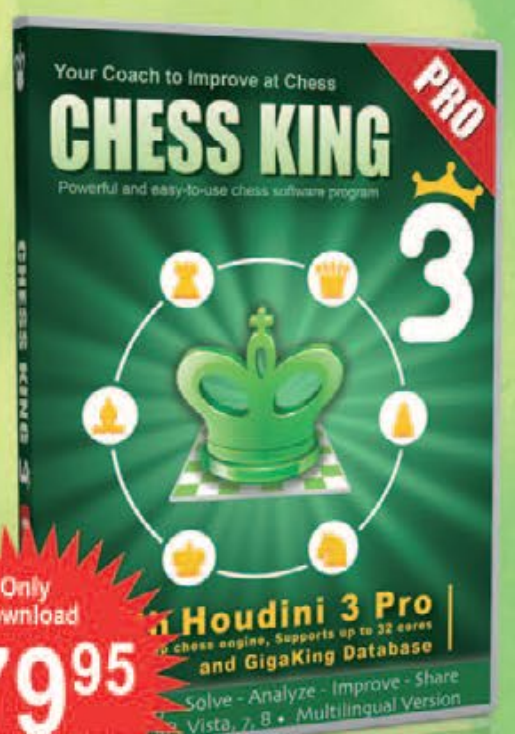
- Grandmaster engine Houdini 2 included
- GigaKing Database of 5+ million games (updated to April 2013, free games all 2013)
- Classical, random, puzzle and quest modes
- Works with all versions of Windows incl. 8
- World Version ENG, FRE, SPA, GER, RUS



CHESS KING 3 MAX

Now with Houdini 3 world's top engine!

- Houdini 3 supports up to 6 cores
- Full Chess960 support
- Other features as Chess King 2



CHESS KING 3 PRO

Most powerful version!

- Includes Houdini 3 Pro, supports up to 32 cores, 256 GB of hash memory and NUMA-architechture
- Maximum playing and analysis power available

IMMEDIATE DOWNLOADS on www.chess-king.com

- Download Chess King 2 €34 95
- Download Chess King 3 Max €59 95
- Download Chess King 3 Pro €79 95

- Upgrades available from €19 95 on www.chess-king.com/shop

To order or for more info:
WWW.CHESS-KING.COM

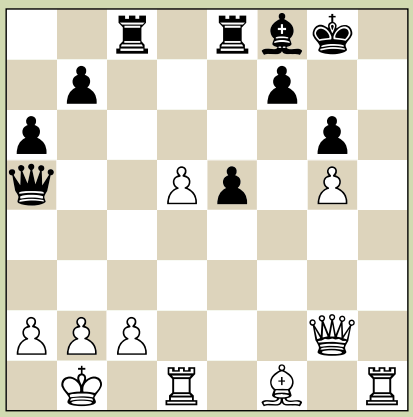
Also on sale at:
www.chessok.com
www.newinchess.com

Jan Timman

The same excellent fish

In a good tradition, everything ideally should stay the same. This was how it was with the 35th edition of the Politiken Cup. When I returned to Helsingor this year, nothing in the ambiance was any different from when I had left it in early August last year. The conference hall for the 11 top boards still contained the same paintings, at lunch the same excellent fish was served, and in the wood I found the same tree-trunk table at which my wife Geertje and I always sipped red wine. The weather was better than last year, so that we could swim in the sea. The water of the Oresund contains surprisingly little salt.

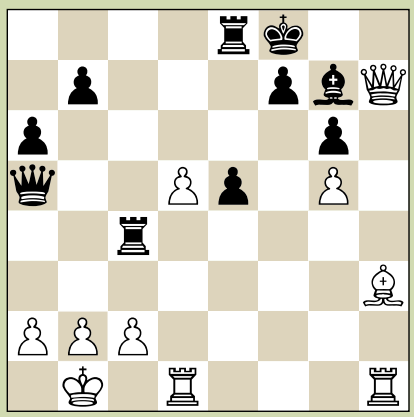
From the very beginning it was clear that a high score would be needed to win the tournament. Cheparinov started with 6 out of 6 and seemed to be heading for a monster score. It was not to be. In Round 7 he got into serious trouble against Negi.



Negi-Cheparinov
position after 23...dxe5

A Sicilian battle has gone wrong for Black. What is more obvious than to advance the d-pawn? After 24.d6 ♖c6 White would have to find the most energetic way: 25.♕e4! ♕c5 26.♗c4!, and Black is powerless. But Negi played

24.♕h3 ♗g7 25.♕h7+ ♔f8 26.♗h3 after which Cheparinov saved his skin with **26...♖c4**



The position is dynamically balanced.

In the penultimate round Cheparinov lost against Brunello and as a result was out of the running for first place. Brunello had suffered an unfortunate loss against the Danish master Mikkelsen in Round 4, but had won every game since. Negi also won in Rounds 8 and 9, so that the two players with 8 out of 9 had to play each other in the final round.

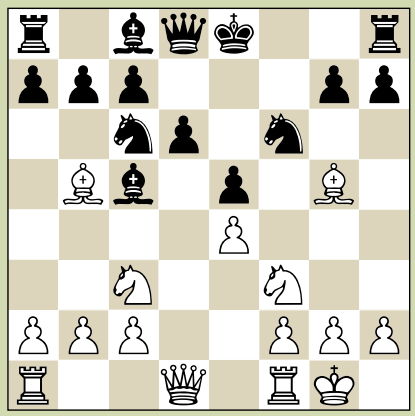
RL 6.2 – C63
Parimarjan Negi
Sabino Brunello
Helsingor 2013 (10)

1.e4 e5 After playing this move Brunello offered a draw – not very heroic. If Negi had accepted it, he would have won the tournament on tie-break with 8½ points, just like four years ago. But he refused. This was a wise decision: few chess fans have forgotten the ultra-short draw between Eljanov and So in Reykjavik this year.

2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 f5 4.d3

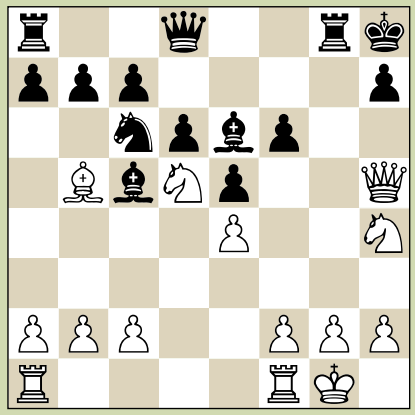
This is the modern trend, which has almost superseded the classical 4.♘c3. Edouard played the same against Hector in Round 9.

4...fxe4 5.dxe4 ♘f6 6.0-0 ♗c5 7.♘c3 d6 8.♗g5



The most principled way. White wants to take his knight to d5 and then weaken the black kingside, the ideal concept for an attacking player like Negi.

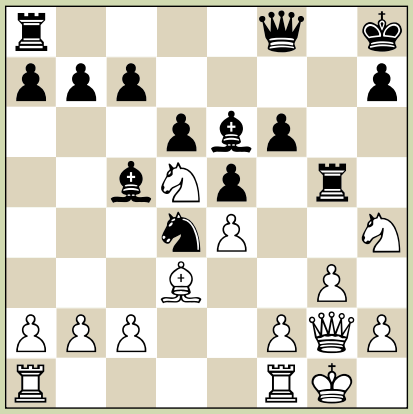
8...0-0 9.♘d5 ♔h8 10.♘h4 ♗e6 11.♗xf6 gxf6 12.♕h5 ♖g8



13.♗d3

A new move. A game Kulaots-Nybäck (2012) continued 13.c3 ♕f8 14.♕f3 ♗xd5 15.exd5 ♘e7 16.♗d7 f5! 17.♘xf5 ♖g5 18.♘h4 ♕h6, with compensation for the pawn.

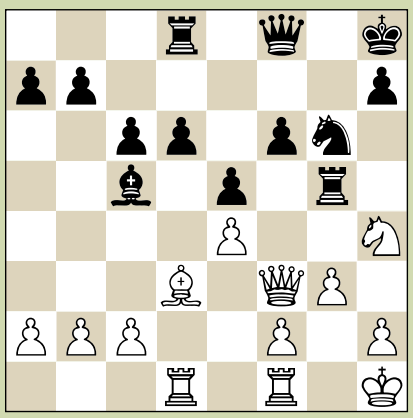
13...♕f8 14.♕f3 ♖g5 15.g3 ♘d4 16.♕g2



16...c6

Obvious but less good. White can swap his knight for the black queen's bishop to take control of the light squares. With 16...♕c8 Black could have successfully continued the fight for the initiative. An attractive variation demonstrates that the position is dynamically balanced: 17.c3 ♗h3 18.♕h1 ♘e6 (stronger than taking on f1; Black must keep control of the light squares) 19.♕f3 c6 20.♕xf6+ ♖g7 21.♘e7 ♕d8 22.♘hg6+ hxg6 23.♕h4+ ♖h7 24.♕f6+, with perpetual check.

17.♘c7 ♖c8 18.♘xe6 ♘xe6 19.♔h1 ♖d8 20.♖ad1 ♘f4 21.♕f3 ♘g6



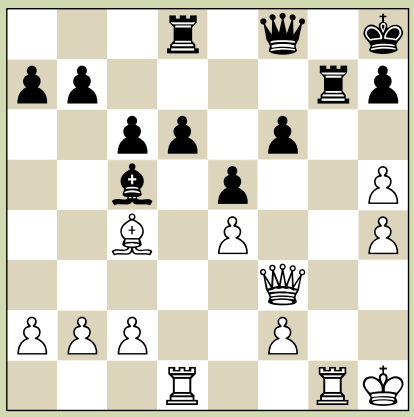
22.♗c4

White goes for the attack, inviting Black to open the g-file, after which he hopes to be able to strike. This tactic works very well in the game, but objectively speaking, 22.♘f5, maintaining White's positional advantage, would have been better.

22...♘xh4 23.gxh4 ♖g6 24.h5 ♖g5

More accurate was 24...♖g7, intending to chase away the queen with 25...♖g5 after 25.♕f5.

25.h4 ♖g7 26.♖g1 White hastens to occupy the g-file, but 26.♕f5 would have been stronger. Now Black gets the chance to free himself.



26...♖dd7

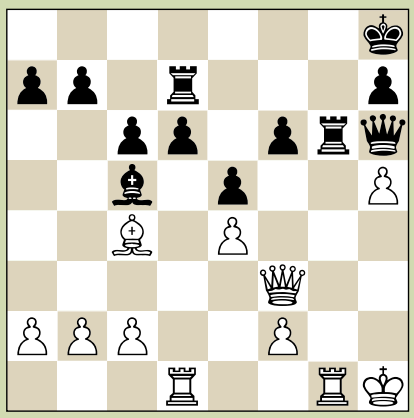
With 26...f5! Black could have equalized. White even has to be careful not to find himself worse. 27.exf5 ♕f6 would have been excellent for Black. The correct way is 27.♖xg7 ♕xg7 28.♕xf5 ♖f8 29.♕e6 ♖xf2 30.♖g1, and now both 30...♖h2+ and 30...♕xg1+ are sufficient for the draw.

27.h6!

This advance has a very special point.

27...♖g6 28.h5 ♕xh6

This is what Black had relied on. But he is in for a nasty surprise.



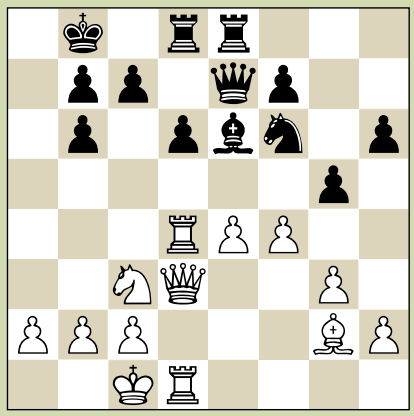
29.♕xf6+! A nice *petite combinaison*. Black cannot take the queen.

29...♕g7 30.♕f5 ♖d8

Brunello must have been quite shocked by what had happened, otherwise he would surely have played 30...♕h6. White retains his advantage, but an immediate decision is not on the cards.

31.hxg6 Black resigned.

Negi has a special talent for blitzkrieg attacks. This is also demonstrated in the following fragment.



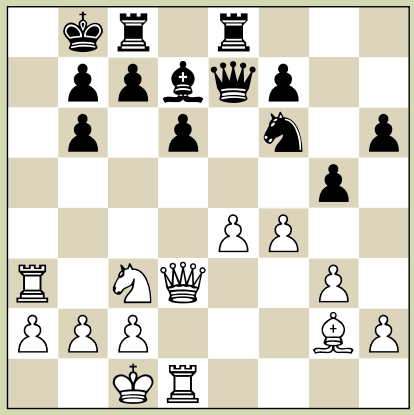
Negi-Portisch
position after 20.♖d1

Black must be careful, for White is threatening 21.e5.

20...♖c8? Taking away a flight square from the king. There was nothing against 20...♗d7!, after which Black has no problems to speak of.

21.♖a4! Suddenly the rook swings into the attack.

21...♗d7 Too late. **22.♖a3**



The ambush is complete. The threat is 23.e5, followed by 24.♖a8+! and mate.

22...♗c6

It looks as if Black has managed to avert the danger.

23.e5! Anyway! **23...♗xg2 24.♘b5** After 24...dxe5 both 25.♕b3 and 25.♖a8+ now quickly lead to mate. Black is hopelessly lost.

24...♖cd8 25.♕c4 d5 26.♕a4 ♕xa3 27.♕xa3 ♘d7 28.♕a7+

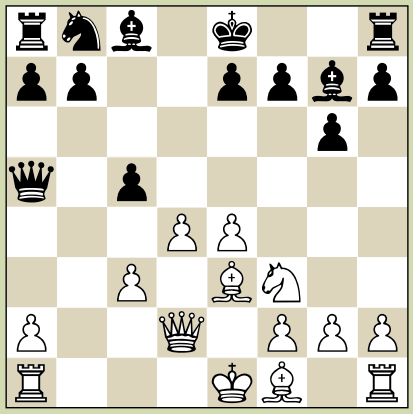
Jan Timman

♔c8 29.♕a8+ ♘b8 30.♘a7+ ♔d7 31.♕xb7 ♖e7 32.♘b5
Black resigned.

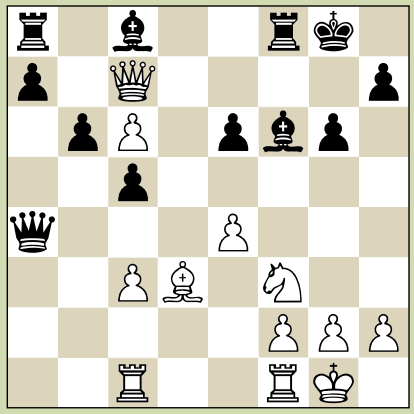
Negi wasn't the only fighter in the final round. All games between the players with 7 out of 9 were decided. This created a group of no fewer than seven players sharing second place with eight points. I was one of them. Like Negi and Edouard, I remained unbeaten for the duration of the tournament. I was very satisfied with the following win.

GI 4.9 – D85
Jan Timman
Igor Teplyi
Helsingor 2013 (5)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7 7.♘f3 c5 8.♗e3 ♕a5 9.♕d2



9...♘c6
In Brunello-Cheparinov, Black went for the other line, viz. 9...0-0. After 10.♖c1 ♖d8 11.d5 e6 White avoided the main theoretical discussion starting with 12.♗g5 and played the more modest 12.♗e2. Black then usually swaps on d5, but Cheparinov continued 12...♘c6 13.0-0 b6. He played very fast, suggesting that he had prepared this. This is strange, because after the obvious 14.♗g5 Black is already in serious trouble. Cheparinov continued to blitz out the next few moves: 14...f6 15.♗xf6! ♗xf6 16.♕f4 ♖f8 17.dxc6 ♕xa2 18.♗d3. Only at this point did Black start thinking. But it was already too late. After 18...♕a4 19.♕c7!

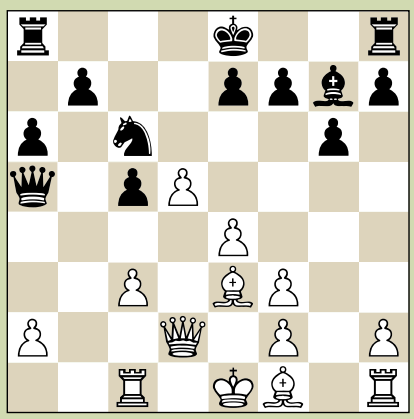


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

the black bishop pair was completely dominated and the passed c-pawn is a nail in Black's coffin. Brunello finished the job as follows: 19...c4 20.♗c2 ♕a3 21.e5 ♗e7 22.♖a1 ♕c5 23.♖xa7 ♖xa7 24.♕xa7 ♗d8 25.♗e4 ♕a5 26.♕xa5 bxa5 27.♘d4 ♗c7 28.f4 g5 29.g3 gxf4 30.gxf4 a4 31.♗b1 ♗a5 32.♗a2 ♗xc3 33.♘b5 ♗b2 34.♗xc4 ♗a6 35.♖b1 ♗xb5 36.♗xe6+ ♔h8 37.♖xb2 ♗xc6 38.f5 a3 39.♖d2 ♗e4 40.f6 h5 41.♗a2 ♗g6 42.♔f2 ♔h7 43.♖d7+ ♔h6 44.♖a7 ♔g5 45.f7, and Black resigned.

10.♖b1 a6 11.♖c1 ♗g4 12.d5 ♗xf3
There's nothing new in this swap per se, but Black has added a new idea. The standard move is 12...♖d8.

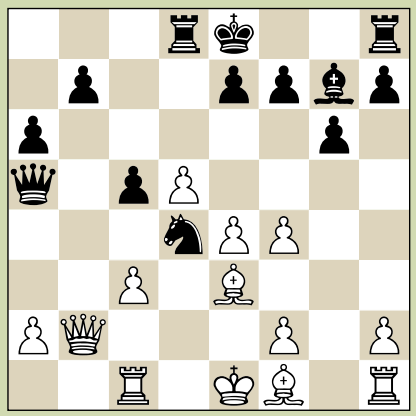
13.gxf3



13...♖d8
Black usually plays 13...♘e5 here, while Ni Hua once tried 13...0-0-0. But the black king is not very secure on the queenside, and the knight jump only costs time. The text is quite logical. Black is keeping the option of where to put his knight open, while putting pressure on the white centre at the same time.
Here I thought for more than half an hour. I understood that 14.f4 was the crucial move. But then White must be prepared to meet 14...e6 with 15.d6, and the ensuing position was by no means clear to me. The computer, for example, considers that after 15...c4 only 16.♖g1 yields an advantage. Frankly speaking, I was afraid to run into a prepared variation, so I decided to play a move that asked different questions from Black.

14.♕b2
Forcing the knight to jump to d4.

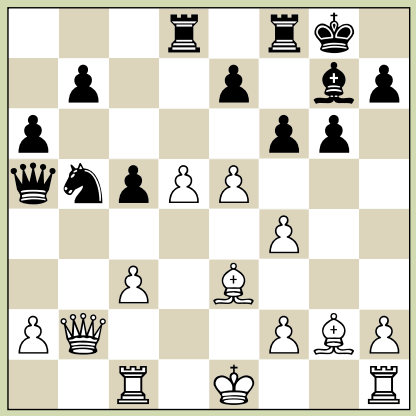
14...♘d4 15.f4



15...0-0
The critical move is 15...e6, which I intended to meet with 16.♗g2 exd5 17.0-0. With 17...♘b5, or even 17...♕b5, Black could have maintained the balance. After the text the play also becomes sharp and complicated, but with better prospects for White in the long run.

16.♗g2 ♘b5 17.e5
Closing the black bishop's long diagonal.

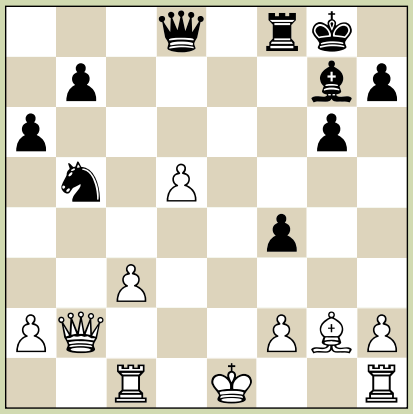
17...f6 And Black tries to open it again. Now White must forge on. He has no time to castle.



18.♗xc5 fxe5

The alternative was 18...♕c7, after which White continues with 19.♕b4. After 19...fxe5 20.♗xe7 ♖xf4 21.♗xd8 ♕xd8 22.♕b3 ♘d6 Black has positional compensation for the exchange, as in the game.

19.♗xe7 exf4 20.♗xd8 ♕xd8



21.♗f3

An important move. White blocks the f-pawn, ensuring the relative safety of his king. Black has positional compensation for the exchange, especially in his control of the dark squares. Yet White is better, as he is a full exchange up.

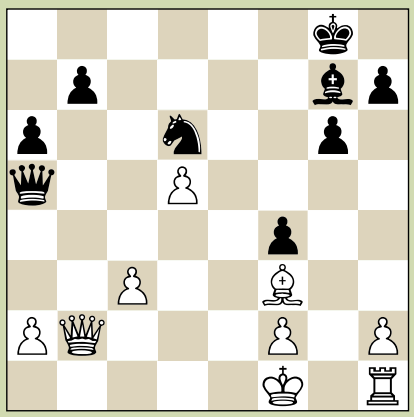
21...♖e8+

I was happy with this rook check, as it allowed me to quickly offer a swap. Black would have retained better chances with 21...♕h4 22.h3 ♘d6, when all the pieces will remain on the board for now.

22.♔f1 ♘d6 23.♖e1

Trying to keep the insignificant pawn is pointless. The rook swap is an important success for White, as it nips any black attacking chances in the bud.

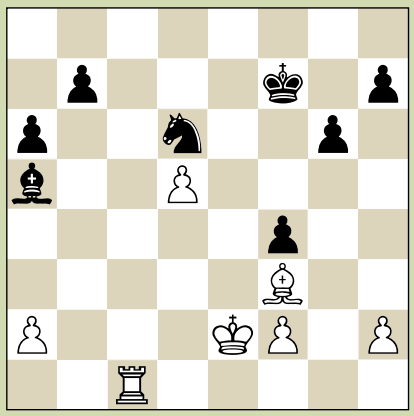
23...♖xe1+ 24.♔xe1 ♕a5 25.♔f1



25...♕xc3

Black's best chance. He offers a queen swap, as 25...♗xc3 26.♕e2 would make the white queen very active.

26.♕xc3 ♗xc3 27.♔e2 ♔f7 28.♖c1 ♗a5



This is the position Black has been aiming for. He has blocked access to the white rook and is hoping to maintain the blockade.

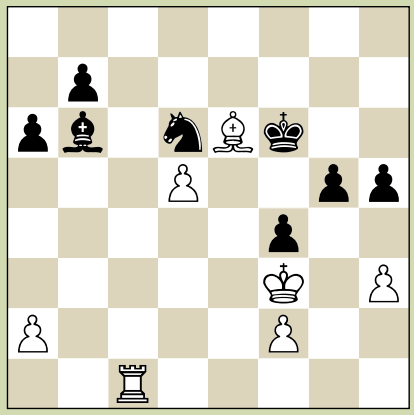
I still had good hopes of winning the game, the blockade not being complete: in due course the white rook should be able to penetrate via the e-file. Another important consideration was that I needn't fear a wholesale pawn swap: even without pawns, the endgame is a theoretical win.

29.♗g4 Activating the bishop.

29...♔f6 30.♔f3 h5 31.♗e6 g5 32.h3

Blocking the black kingside pawns.

32...♗b6

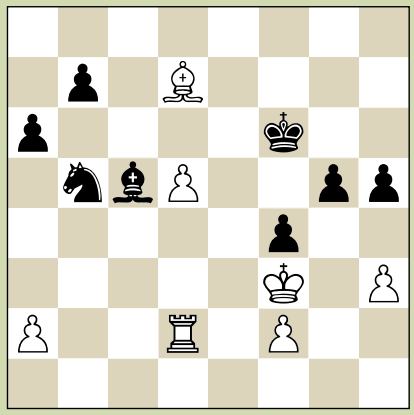


33.♖d1

An important move. White prevents Black from switching his bishop to e5 via d4, which would make it very hard for White to break through.

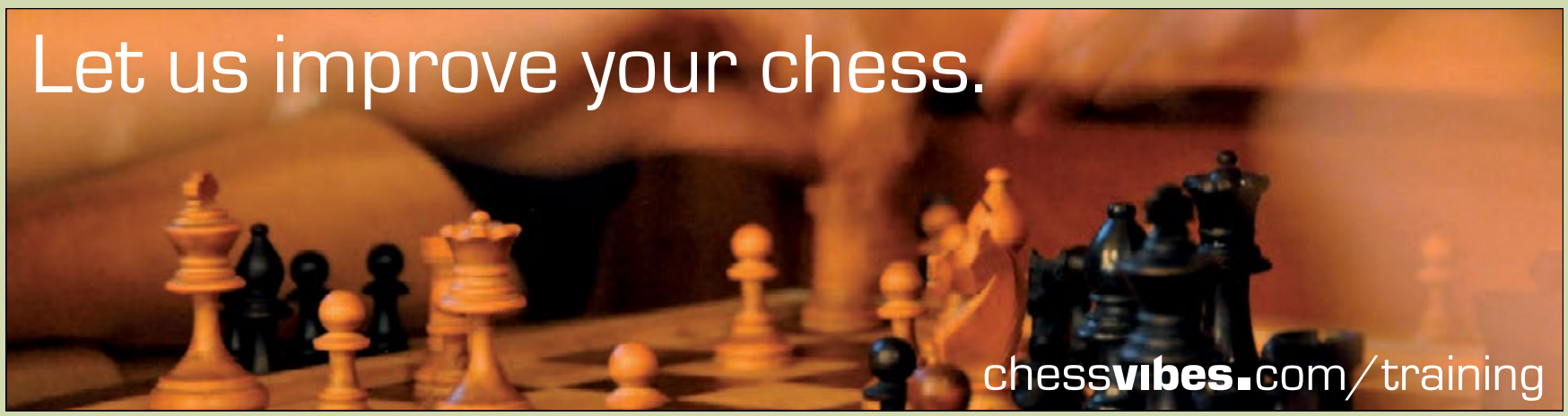
33...♗c5 34.♖d2 ♘b5 35.♗d7

With the clear threat of a swap on b5 and queening the d-pawn.



35...♘d6

After this obvious retreat Black is hopelessly lost. He should have tried



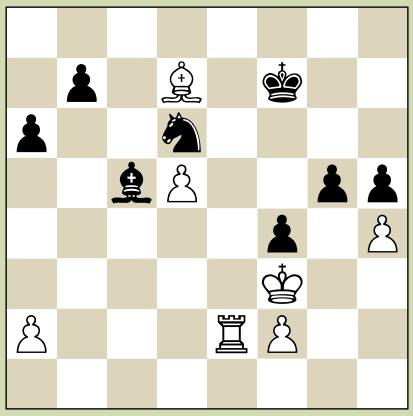
Jan Timman

35...♔e5, when swapping on b5 is not enough to win in view of Black's solid centralization. So White has a lot to prove. His best bet is to give up his d-pawn in order to break the blockade. A possible variation is 36.♔g2 ♘d6 37.♖e2+ ♔xd5 38.♗e6+ ♔d4 39.♖d2+ ♔e5 40.♖d5+ ♔xe6 41.♖xc5, with excellent winning chances. The black kingside pawns will become weak.

36.♖e2

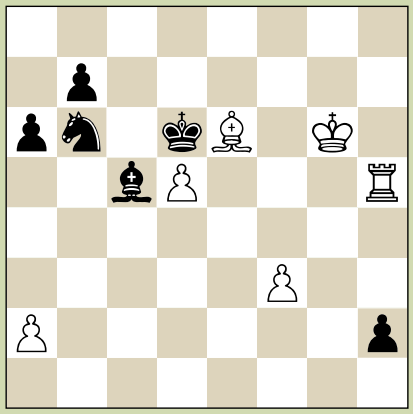
Now Black finds himself unable to maintain the blockade.

36...♔f7 37.h4!



The decisive breaking move.

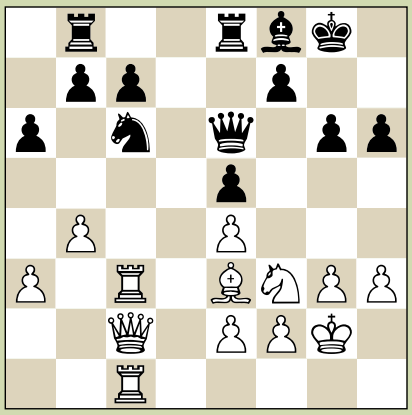
37...gxh4 38.♔xf4 ♔f6 39.f3 ♘c4 40.♖e6+ ♔g7 41.♔g5 ♘b6 42.♖g6+ ♔f8 43.♗e6 h3 44.♖h6 ♔e7 45.♖xh5 ♔d6 46.♔g6 h2



47.♖xh2 ♘xd5 48.♗xd5 ♔xd5 49.♖h5+ ♔d4 50.♖xc5

A nice final point. Black resigned.

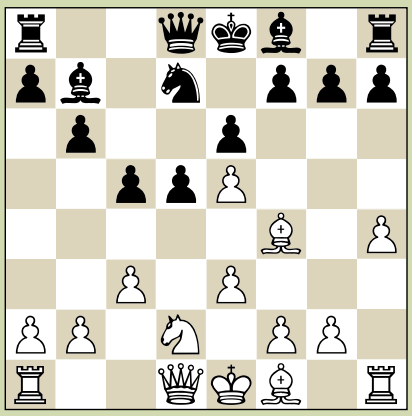
I have noticed that young top players make a habit these days of playing weakening pawn moves for no clear reason. I will give two telling examples from the Grand Prix tournament in Beijing.



Grischuk-Mamedyarov
Beijing 2013
positon after 26.h3

White is exerting pressure, but things are not too worrying for Black. Mamedyarov now played **26...g5**.

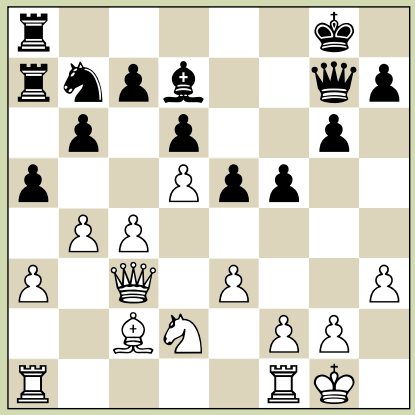
I would never have considered this move. Black weakens square f5 without getting anything in return. Amongst other things, he no longer has the option of the advance ...f7-f5. The computer's judgment of this weakening pawn move, incidentally, is surprisingly mild. The move even figures high on its list for a moment, but eventually it reckons it does not materially change the situation. It seems to me, however, that Black's pawn move increases White's advantage considerably.



Kamsky-Karjakin
Beijing 2013
position after 10.h4

Karjakin played **10...h5**. Black gives up square g5 for no discernible reason. The computer is slightly more critical here. After 10...♕c7 it reckons – correctly – that Black is slightly better. After the weakening pawn move it assesses the chances as equal. I would say that White is slightly better.

But these two pawn moves pale into insignificance compared to what happened in Helsingor in Round 4.



Kunin-Edouard
position after 21...♕g7

Kunin is a grandmaster with roughly 2500 Elo-points. In this position he seems to be worried that Black has doubled rooks on the a-file, because he went for **22.b5?**

An utterly unbelievable move. Black's positional problem has been solved at a stroke: the black knight, with no prospects on b7, has been gifted a magnificent square in c5. Before that, Black didn't have a single threat.

Remarkably enough, the computer isn't even overly critical here, indicating that White would have been fractionally better after 22.e4. After White's pawn move it assesses the position as fractionally better for Black. It seems to me, however, that Black has a clear strategic advantage now after having been in a difficult position before. ■

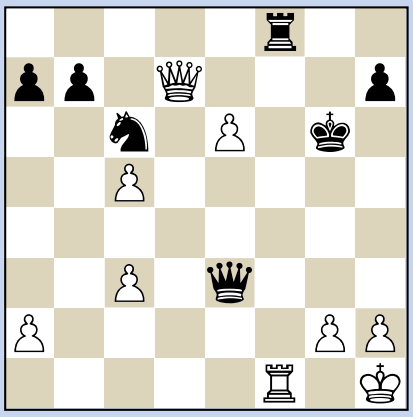
'I have noticed that young top players make a habit these days of playing weakening pawn moves for no clear reason.'

Yochanan Afek

Beware: Brilliancy!

Oversights are part of the practice of each and every one of us. A great majority of them bear no special interest beyond the obvious lesson to avoid repeating them. All six positions below could have been handled a lot better. Would you miss those brilliant opportunities? Keep in mind that in all of them the queen plays a major role.

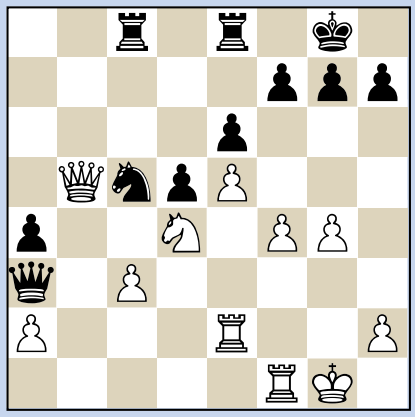
★☆☆☆☆



1. White to play

In time-trouble White instinctively defended against the mate by **30.♖g1??** and soon afterwards erred again and lost. Would you employ a more active defence?

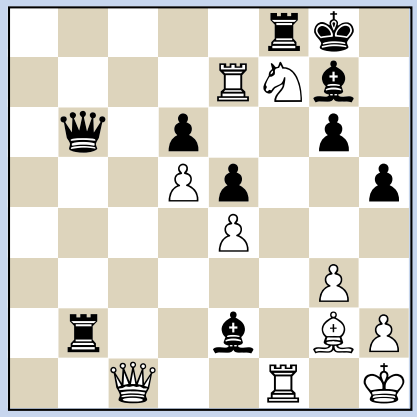
★★☆☆☆



2. White to play

White, positionally inferior, offered to swap queens by the natural **26.♕b4**, but does natural necessarily mean best?

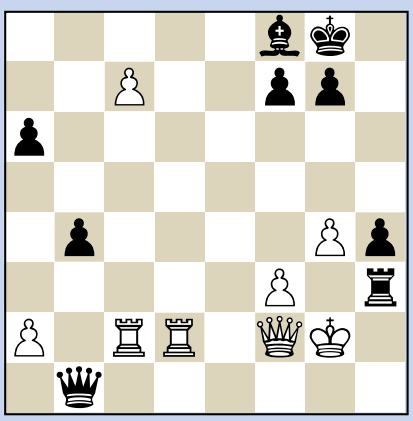
★★★☆☆



3. White to play

White continued **29.♘h6+??** and resigned after **29...♗xh6**. What did he miss?

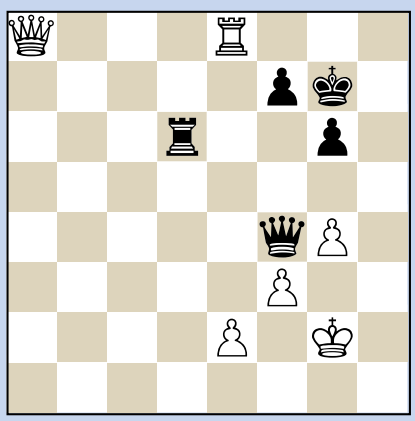
★★★☆☆



4. White to play

Black's last move **45...♖xh3!** probably caught White by surprise, as his response **46.♔xh3** generated a forced mate: **46...♕h1+ 47.♕h2 ♕xf3+ 48.♔xh4 ♗e7+ 49.g5 ♗xg5+** and White resigned in view of 50.♔xg5 f6+ 51.♔h4 g5 mate. Was there a way out of the mess?

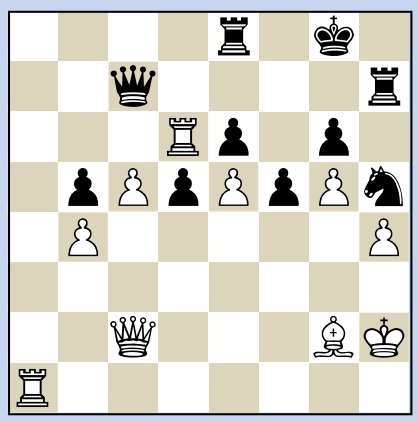
★★★☆☆



5. White to play

White played **52.♖e4** without much faith in his winning chances and the game indeed ended in a draw 11 moves later. Was there possibly more than that?

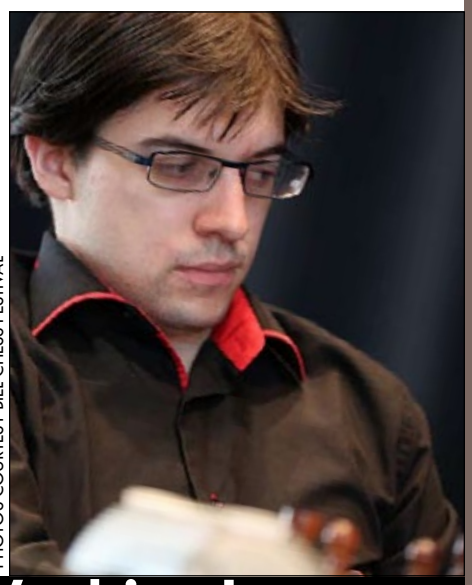
★★★★☆



6. Black to play

White seems better and even managed to convert his edge following **36...♘g7 37.♕f2 f4 38.♗h3 ♕f7 39.♖f1 ♖f8 40.c6! f3 41.♕g3 ♘f5 42.♖xf3!** etc. But is White really better in the initial position? Could you improve on Black's choice?

The number of stars roughly indicates their estimated level of difficulty: 1 is easiest and 5 most difficult. Solutions on page 101



PHOTOS COURTESY BIEL CHESS FESTIVAL

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

In search of Maximalism

This was my fifth consecutive participation in Biel, where I very much feel at ease. The pleasant town is not too big, there is a nice football field just metres away from the hotel, and there is a nice variety of good restaurants, with a special mention for the Japanese one. I consider myself a regular guest now, which is perfectly illustrated by the fact that even though I spend most of my free time in my hotel room, I still know my way around well enough not to get lost within a radius of one kilometre, which is quite an achievement for me. The special feelings are certainly enhanced by the fact that it was here, in 2009, that I won my first top tournament. This time I also won, but my victory could have been smoother had I used my chances more effectively...

On the free day Etienne Bacrot, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Alexander Moiseenko relaxed playing mini-golf. As Ding Liren, the fourth player to top the table after 10 rounds, didn't take part, using the mini-golf tourney as a tiebreaker was not an option.

This year's Grandmaster tournament was dedicated to the memory of Olivier Breisacher, who sadly passed away shortly after the end of last year's edition. Olivier was the press officer and one of the main driving forces of the festival, especially for the Grandmaster tournament. He was always available throughout the tournament, despite his heavy workload, and he was always pleasant company. We both happened to be fond of Roger Federer the Great. As a journalist, Olivier had the opportunity to interview him a couple of times, and he would send me these interviews as soon as they were published!

The invited field was both homogenous (with only a 26-point difference between the highest rated and the lowest rated player) and highly interesting, with a lot of youngsters: Richard Rapport, who was playing his first top tournament, Ding Liren, Ian Nepomniachtchi and myself. Etienne Bacrot is another regular guest in Biel, while Alexander Moiseenko recently won the European Championship.

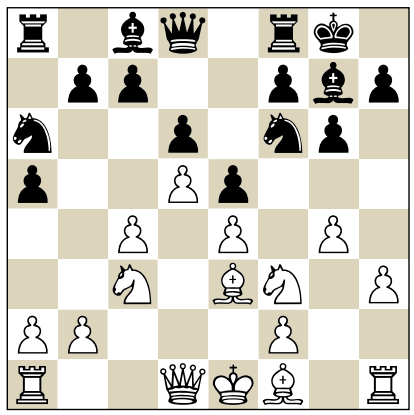
Draws were not allowed until move 40, and the three points for a win rule was in place to further emphasize the organizers' hope for a lot of action. On a personal note, I don't really see the use of the football scoring system, but I don't mind it in top tournaments either. Olivier liked the system a lot and therefore it made sense to implement it.

The players were in a fighting mood anyway. After the first round had seen three draws, the second round came with a bang and three decisive games. To begin with, Etienne very smoothly, step by step, broke down Liren's King's Indian.

NOTES BY
Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

KI 20.8 – E92
Etienne Bacrot
Ding Liren
Biel 2013 (2)

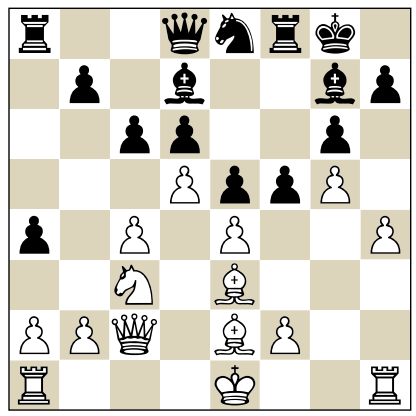
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.♗e3 e5 7.d5 a5 8.♘f3 ♘a6 9.g4



This whole variation has become one of White's favourite ways of playing against the King's Indian, at least when he wants to avoid the main variation with the base race between White's queenside and Black's kingside. Basically White is trying to get some space on the kingside to take the sting out of the ...f5-f4 push, while he believes he's not at risk of losing his advantage on the queenside, meaning he can delay his play there by a few moves.

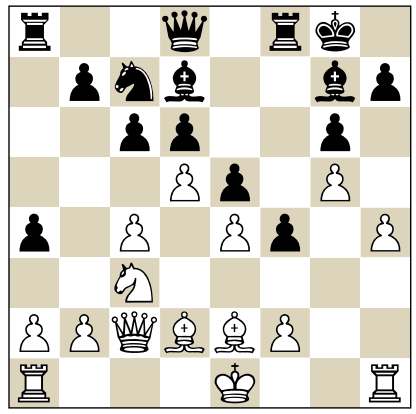
9...♘c5 10.♘d2 c6 11.♗e2 ♗d7 12.g5 ♘e8 13.♘b3 This is a pretty uncommon move; players generally favoured the logical 13.h4.

13...♘xb3 14.♕xb3 a4 15.♕c2 f5 16.h4



This is the novelty, although up to this point it's been more about playing logical moves rather than about playing memorized variations. In general, these kinds of positions make for very sharp play, but from where I stand I quite liked Black's position, even though I thought it could also easily be to White's advantage.

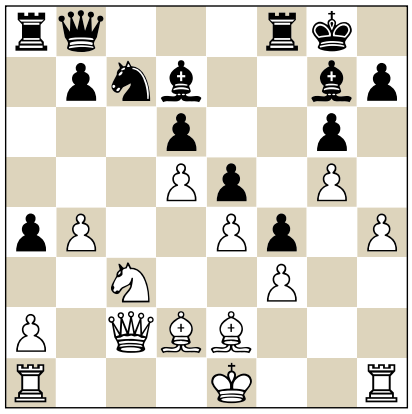
16...f4 17.♗d2 ♘c7! Obviously the right idea, justified by some tactics.



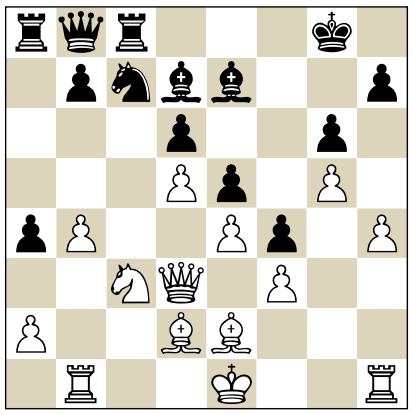
18.f3 Solid play. White also wants to get his bishop to f2 at some stage. After 18.♘xa4, 18...cxd5 19.♘b6 ♘e6! gives Black very good counterplay: 20.♘xd5 (Black gets attacking chances after 20.♘xd7 ♕xd7 21.cxd5 ♘d4 22.♕d3 f3, and 20.♘xa8? is bad because of 20...♘d4 21.♕c3 dxe4!, when the knight on a8 will still fall and Black totally dominates the centre) 20...♘d4 21.♕d3 b5.

18...cxd5 19.cxd5 ♕b8 Another logical move. As most of the action is taking place on the queenside, the queen is aiming for the a7-g1 diagonal or to support the b-pawn push.

20.b4!



20...♖c8?! More logical looks 20...axb3 21.♕xb3 b5, to try to push ...b4.
21.♕d3! White has managed to solidify his queenside and prevented any ...b5-b4, which would make White's position very suspect.
21...♗f8 22.♖b1 ♗e7

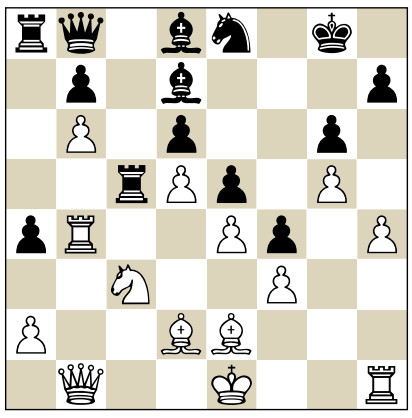


23.b5 Here 23.h5 doesn't make much sense, as there is no easy way to transfer his pieces to the kingside. So this is the only way to get some space on the queenside and try to make use of the congested black pieces there.
23...♗d8 24.♖b4 ♘e8 25.b6 ♖c5 26.♕b1!
Black still looks pretty OK, but things can easily get out of hand.

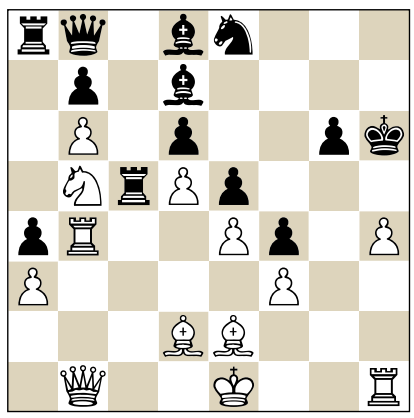
Etienne Bacrot very smoothly, step by step, broke down Liren's King's Indian.

This move can't be right. When kibitzing I thought the knight on e8 should just come to g3, with a decent position. Don't get me wrong, though, I generally come up with a lot of wrong ideas while kibitzing at games!
After 26...♘g7 27.♗d3! ♘h5 28.♖h2 ♗e8 I thought Black shouldn't be worse, as he controls every way for White to make a breakthrough and has a solid presence on the queenside, even if it doesn't do much in terms of attacking.
27.gxh6 ♔h7 28.♘b5 ♔xh6 29.a3 I believe Etienne's play was not very powerful in the opening, but from then onwards he's been playing very logically and I think he now has the better chances, especially on the kingside.

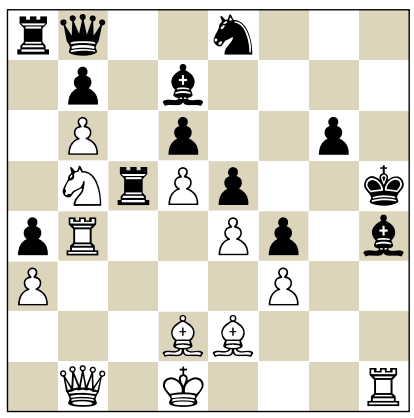
This advance is not so pointless, as Black's king looks pretty safe here. But it is still far too much in such a position.
29...♘f6?! was not really possible anymore, because of 30.♘c7 ♗xc7 31.bxc7 ♕xc7 32.♖xb7 ♕c8 33.♖g1, and White has a good initiative on both flanks.
But 29...♗f6! was more solid: 30.♗d3! ♕d8 31.♔e2 ♗xb5 32.♗xb5 ♘g7 33.♕g1 ♘h5! 34.♕g4 ♕xb6 35.♖g1 ♖g8, and even though White has the initiative, his king is not all that safe.
30.♔d1
The safest place for White's king. Now Etienne can focus on the advanced black king. His plan is ♗e1-f2, repelling Black's powerful rook.
30...♗xh4?!
Now this is really reckless.



26...h6



29...♔h5?!



31.♗e1

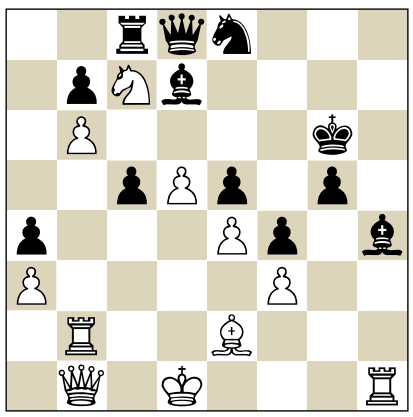
Another of Etienne's ideas, as he told me after the game, was 31.♗xf4! to take advantage of the weakened long diagonal and attack Black's king this way. He probably didn't play it because there was a simpler way at his disposal.

After 31.♗xf4 play might continue 31...exf4 32.♕b2 g5 33.♗d3!, and Black is helpless against the combined action of the white pieces.

31...g5 32.♗f2 ♔g6

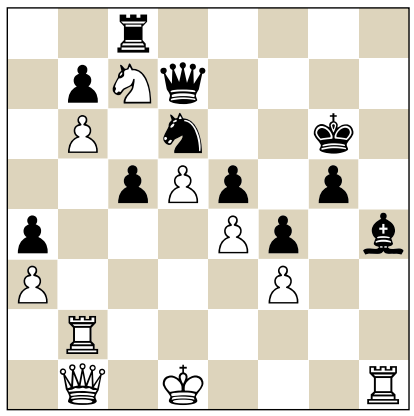
32...♕c8 33.♘a7 ♕d8 34.♗xc5 dxc5 35.♖b2 wouldn't have changed too much, but might have helped Black to resist a bit longer, as White's knight is in a less ideal position compared to the game.

33.♗xc5 dxc5 34.♖b2 ♕d8 35.♘c7! ♖c8



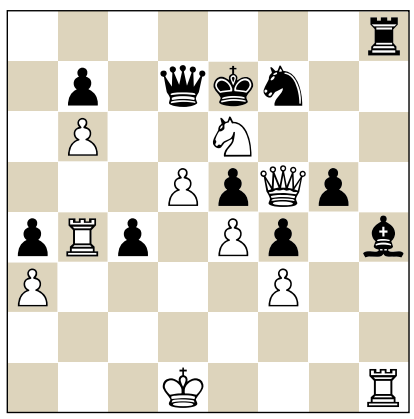
36.♗b5 Etienne was very clinical in this game, and his policy of exchanging all Black's most useful defending pieces is quite instructive.

36...♘d6 37.♗xd7 ♕xd7



38.♕c2 Bringing his queen to the kingside. Then there only will remain the obvious knight jump to e6 and Black's position is bound to collapse.

38...c4 39.♖b4 ♖h8 40.♘e6 ♔f6 41.♕g2 ♘f7 42.♕h3 ♔e7 43.♕f5



Black is completely helpless now.

43...♖c8 44.♘g7 c3 45.♔c2 ♖c5 46.♕xd7+

46.♕h7 would have been even quicker.

46...♔xd7 47.♘f5 ♘d6 48.♘xd6 ♔xd6 49.♖xa4 ♖b5 50.♖b4

Black resigned.

A rather impressive game by Etienne, who followed his starting plan to the letter and managed to score a seemingly effortless win.

■ ■ ■

You will see the King's Indian mentioned a couple more times, since the Chinese player used it in five of his five black games, managing to outrank by far my or Ian's three Grünfelds. Richard had a very promising position against Alexander but played too sharply at some point and got duly punished. Meanwhile, the main storyline of my own tournament began to take shape. Against Ian Nepomniachtchi I got what I considered to be a winning position as early as move 10, and then tried to be as clinical as possible. It so happens that being clinical is not exactly my thing. But when I managed to exchange queens and liquidated to an endgame a pawn up, I was confident again and managed to claim the full point. The next day against Etienne, things didn't end that well.

International Correspondence Chess Federation
Official Website | www.iccf.com

Play with the world's best correspondence chess players on one of the most advanced chess servers in the world.

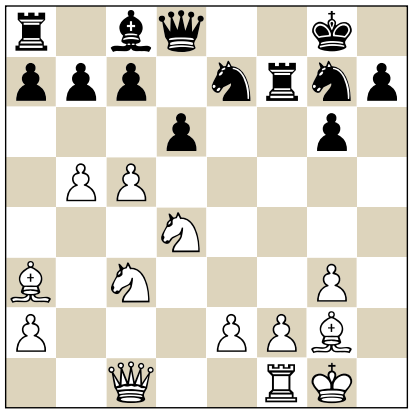
Register at: **www.iccf-webchess.com**

Join a team of thousands playing great chess at ICCF.

ICCF also offers World Championships, Olympiads, and many other Team and Individual Tournaments where you can participate from any place around the globe.

View live games of the world's best players – also free games downloads.

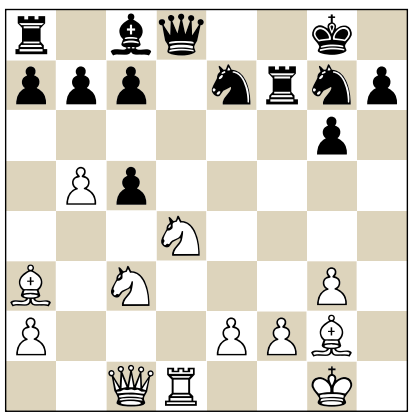
Contact us at: **www.iccf.com**



Vachier-Lagrave-Bacrot
position after 17...♖f7

White has an absolutely overwhelming position, but it had cost me a lot of time in the opening. Here comes a good illustration of my converting abilities in this tournament!

18.♖d1 dxc5



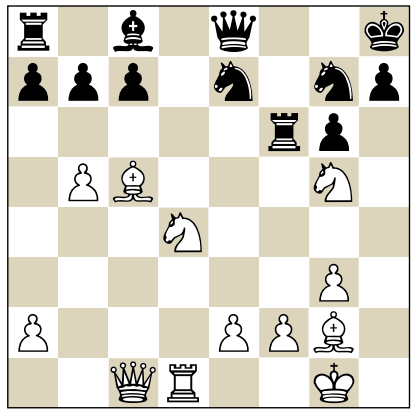
19.♗xc5

I had calculated 19.♘c6! to the win, but it seemed quite complicated given how good my position was. Still, it may have been the right choice, as my mistake here is that I thought I could win this game with minimal calculation.

The line continues 19...♕f8 20.♖d8 ♘e8 21.♗xc5 (21.♘e5! is even more convincing: 21...♖xf2 22.♗f3! – had I seen this variation probably I would have played it – 22...♗h3 23.♖xa8 ♖f1+ 24.♕xf1 ♗xf1 25.♘d7 ♕f7 26.♖xe8+, and wins) 21...bxc6 22.bxc6 ♗b7 23.♖xe8! ♕xe8 24.cxb7, and White wins.

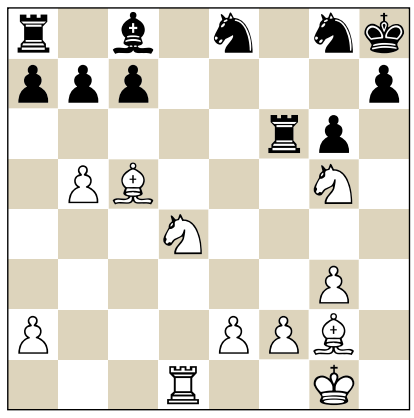
19...♕e8 20.♘e4! ♔h8 21.♘g5 ♖f6

Up to here I had played very accurately, and now the only thing that remains is the finishing touch.



22.♕e3?! This should be good enough, but exchanging queens is actually a pity. Best was 22.♗a3! and the pawn on c7 falls, with an absolutely winning position.

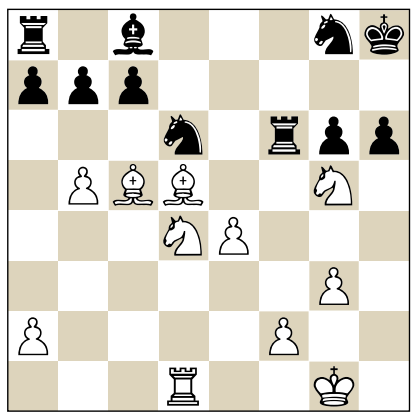
22...♘g8 23.♕xe8 ♘xe8



24.♗d5? And this is a very bad move based on a bad miscalculation.

I had seen 24.e4! h6 25.e5 hxg5 26.exf6 ♘gxf6 27.♘f3, but it didn't look as convincing as 24.♗d5. Here White is technically winning.

24...♘d6 25.e4 h6!



26.e5?!

Now I realized that after 26.♘gf3 ♘e7 27.♗b3 Black plays 27...♗g4, but despite this miscalculation, White is still much better after 28.♖d3.

26...hxg5 27.exf6 ♘xf6 28.♗g2 ♘fe4 Now things are getting really unclear, and I decided that I had made enough bad moves for one day, and forced a draw.

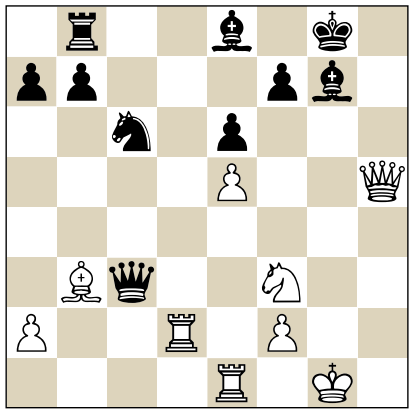
29.♗xd6 ♘xd6 30.♖c1 a6 31.♖xc7 ♘xb5 32.♘xb5 axb5 33.♗d5 ♗f5 34.♖xb7 ♖a5 35.f3 ♗b1 36.g4 ♗xa2 37.♗xa2 ♖xa2 38.♖xb5 ♔g7 39.♖xg5 ♔f6 40.♖d5 ♖b2 Draw.

■ ■ ■

After this game I realized that things were not going my way. It's superfluous to say that if you start missing golden opportunities you are afraid they will not come again. And that even if they do, who knows how you are going to use them this time? In any case, the next game against Ding Liren was a characteristically bad one. The only positive thing was that I didn't have any opportunities to be reminded of. Playing sloppily from what I thought was a very sound position I took one bad decision after the other and was duly punished. I have to add that I'm of the opinion that you cannot have a bad day if your opponent doesn't have a good one, and indeed this was the case, as Liren played very precisely as soon as he got the initiative.

In the fifth round a lot happened. First of all, Ian got a clear pull against Liren's KID, and had him on the ropes from move 30. But Black's tenacious defence finally earned him half a point. In his game against Etienne, Richard, blitzing out his preparation in what is in my opinion the sharpest opening, the Botvinnik Slav, suddenly mixed up moves and gave the game away. Meanwhile, I came up with a cunning opening choice, the Alapin Variation of the Sicilian. I had a couple of ideas there and thought Alexander might be caught off-balance, as he had no recent games in this variation. My plan proved to be quite efficient, as Alexander allowed me to build up a tremendous attack. This time I had no doubts about the outcome of the

game; I knew that nothing could happen. Well, here's what did happen.



Vachier-Lagrave-Moiseenko
position after 24...♕xc3

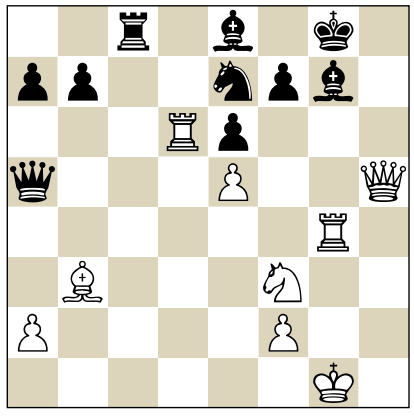
25.♖e4! Instead, 25.♖e3 ♕b4, followed by ...♕f4, seems to give Black a little counterplay.

25...♘e7 After 25...♘xe5 26.♖xe5 ♗xe5 27.♕xe5 ♕xe5 28.♘xe5 it's a clear technical win, as even with no pawns on the board this material balance should be winning for White.

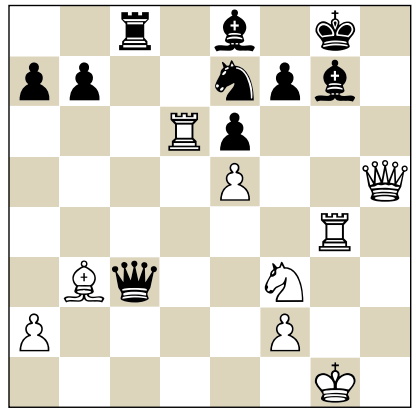
26.♖c4 An easier win was 26.♖c2 ♕d3 27.♘g5, but I couldn't resist pushing Black's queen away from the main action. After 27...♖d8, 28.♖c1! is a nice touch, preventing any black counterplay and threatening ♖d1 at the same time.

26...♕a5 27.♖g4 ♖c8 28.♖d6

28.♗xe6 was a more forced win pointed out by Alexander after the game: 28...fxe6 29.♕h6 ♘g6 30.♖xg6 ♗xg6 31.♕xg6 and you cannot protect everything, as ♕xe6+, ♖d7 and ♘g5 are all devastating threats in this position.



28...♕c3! Black's last chance, directed against ♖xe6. Black is lost after 28...♖c1+ 29.♔g2 ♗c6 30.♖xc6! ♖xc6 31.♘g5.



29.♖xe6??

All I can say is that I looked at the board, checked 'carefully' that 29...♕a1+ or 29...♕c1+ wouldn't make any difference, and played this winning move. Except that it didn't win...

29.♘g5! would have won immediately after 29...♕xe5 (29...♕e1+ 30.♔g2

ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2014

ACO Amateur Chess Organization

07th - 16th June 2014 - Rhodes (Greece)

Prizefund 5.000 EUR (21 prizes) / 9 rounds Swiss System
4 and 5 star hotels with All-Inclusive or half board
1000 m2 playing hall

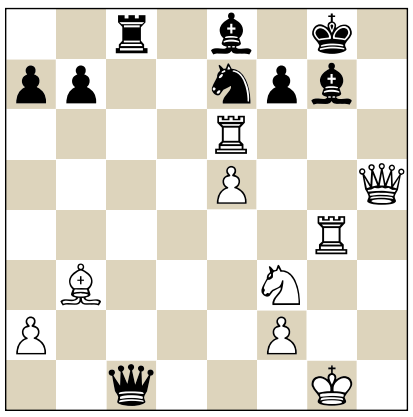
From 549 EUR per person All-Inclusive

The tournament will be played in 7 groups:
A: 2201 – 2400 B: 2001 – 2200 C: 1801 – 2000
D: 1601 – 1800 E: 1401 – 1600 F: 1201 – 1400
G: 0 – 1200
Save up to 150 EUR per person for early booking until 15th September 2013!
Contact & registration: rhodes@amateurchess.com
2013
168 players from 26 countries
Already more than 150 registrations for 2014
Limited places
www.amateurchess.com/rhodes

‘Apparently, it had something to do with my putts, as there, too, I had problems finishing off my preparatory play.’

♖c1 31.♕h7+ ♔f8 32.♘xe6+ leaves no questions either) 30.♖xe6!.

29...♕c1+

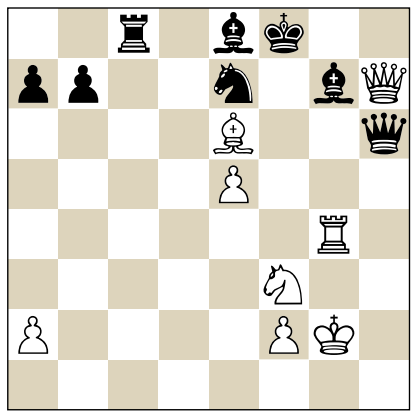


30.♔g2? 30.♔h2! still gave White good chances to win. But I was still in a state of shock. If this position had occurred naturally I would have played it without thinking: 30...fxe6 31.♗xe6+ ♔f8 32.♕h4! ♘g6 33.♕h7 ♕c7 34.♕g8+ ♔e7 35.♗xc8 ♗xe5+ 36.♘xe5 ♕xe5+ 37.♖g3 ♗f7 38.♕h7, and White should still be winning, albeit not easily.

30...fxe6 31.♗xe6+ ♔f8

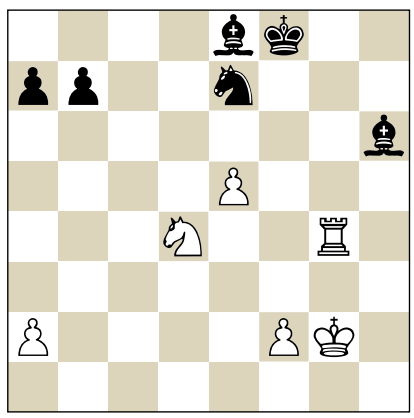
Now the f4-square is under control!

32.♕h7 ♕h6



33.♕xh6 After 33.♘g5? ♗c6+ 34.♔g3 ♖d8 I couldn’t find a good follow-up, for the pretty good reason that there isn’t one. Black is already winning after the zwischenzug 35.♕xh6 ♖d3+! 36.♔h4 ♗xh6.

33...♗xh6 34.♗xc8 ♘xc8 35.♘d4 ♘e7



36.♘e6+ Actually I was relieved to be able to force a draw before managing to lose this game!

36...♔f7 37.♘d8+ ♔f8 38.♘e6+ ♔f7 39.♘d8+ ♔f8 40.♘e6+

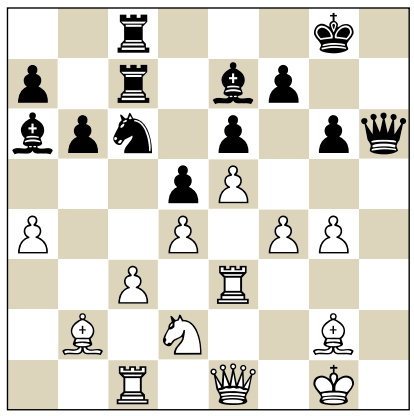
Draw.

■ ■ ■

And so, halfway the tournament Etienne was in the clear lead with 9 points, while Alexander had 7. Liren and myself were on par with 6 points. Unfortunately, the desirable free day had not arrived yet, as it was scheduled after six rounds instead of the five I initially had hoped for. In Round 6, Etienne and Ian settled for a shortish draw, while I was caught off-balance by Richard’s wild set-up. I managed to respond well until some critical moment where I probably made the wrong decision in a very complex position. Richard was on his way to punish me when he missed a smart defensive resource that allowed me to restore the balance and make a draw. Finally, Liren posted an impressive win against Alexander and moved into second place.

Then came the free day that I craved so badly, which saw Alexander, Etienne and myself try our luck at mini-golf, after a break of, for some of us, a few years and for one of us 20 years. Cruelly enough, the lowest score wins, which meant that I finished a dismal 20 points behind the winner Alexander. Apparently, it had something to do with my putts, as there, too, I had problems finishing off my preparatory play. Unfortunately, Liren’s absence meant that this mini-golf game could not be counted as a proper tiebreak rule... But I’m getting ahead of myself.

Now a new tournament began for everyone and every round was packed with action. I managed to collect a very important win against Ian, in what should be my ‘cleanest’ game of the tournament, but I leave that to the reader to judge.



Vachier-Lagrave-Nepomniachtchi
position after 29...♕h6

Everything went according to plan up to here. I had managed to keep Black’s counterplay under control to such an extent that even if I gave Black a couple more moves he still couldn’t develop anything serious. At the same time, I had managed to build up an interesting attack on the kingside, and

Get a move on!

The new Fritz-Trainer generation

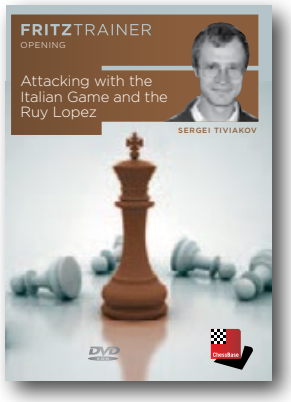
Interactive and communicative - the new ChessBase training format turns you from an idle onlooker to an active participant! Training questions can now be answered by entering moves to receive feedback immediately, making it easy to grasp motifs and variations. Chess lessons have never been that entertaining and efficient.

Sergei Tiviakov: The French Defence. 3.Nd2: a complete repertoire for White

The aim of this D VD is to provide the White player with a complete repertoire against the French Defence. As Sergei Tiviakov explains on this DVD 3.Nd2 is an excellent choice. Based on his personal experience and the latest theoretical developments this DVD is a great starting point to learn 3.Nd2. Sergey Tiviakov is very successful in beating the French Defence with overal score of 80% (well above average) from 219 games played.
The DVD contains lot of exclusive information and databases not available anywhere else. The main database consists of about 312,000 games. All games of the author played in French Defence are provided with lots of them not published previously.
With interactive training: test yourself and find out if you master the new repertoire and if you are ready for battle at the board. Including videofeedback on your proposals! All this makes the current DVD a „must-have“ one if you want to learn how to play against the French Defence choosing the Tarrasch variation 3.Nd2. Video running time: 5 hours.
Tiviakov gained the titles of World Youth Champion at U16 and U18 levels. He moved to Groningen (Netherlands) in 1997 and became Dutch champion in 2006 and 2007. One year later he celebrated his biggest success when he won the European Chess Championship.

27,90 €

Sergei Tiviakov: Attacking with the Italian Game and the Ruy Lopez

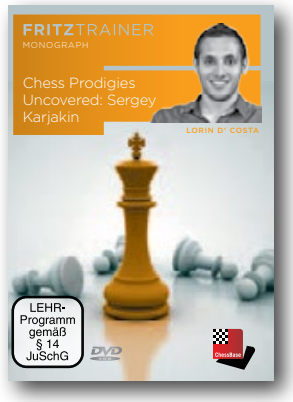


Learn how to conduct the attack on the black king using different methods! Although the Italian Game and the Ruy Lopez are mostly positional openings, it is very often possible to make use of attacking methods of play. This DVD is based mostly on the personal experience and games of the author, thus making it a unique chess product. The methods described in the DVD are the results of the life-long experience of the author who has played the Ruy Lopez and the Italian Game from his childhood and has scored with it many, many wins, including some against the world's strongest players. The DVD is divided into 4 chapters according to those attacking methods which have given and still are giving the author the best results. Also several other games by other players (such as A. Karpov, for example) have been added and explained.
To complement the instruction, a database is provided which contains all the games which the author has played in the Italian Game and the Ruy Lopez since 1986. A huge number of these games have never been published before. Other databases of only annotated games and references have been added as well.
Everything makes this DVD an excellent comprehensive product for learning how to play the Italian Game and the Ruy Lopez and achieving the best results with these openings!

Available in September.

27,90 €

Lorin D'Costa: Chess Prodigies Uncovered: Sergey Karjakin



Sergey Karjakin hit the headlines in 2002 when he became the world's youngest ever grandmaster aged just 12 years 7 months, a record which shocked the chess world and still stands today. In the first of this new series with ChessBase, IM Lorin D'Costa investigates one of the most famous prodigies of modern times – Sergey Karjakin. In this DVD, D'Costa focuses mainly on Sergey's early career from aspiring 9 year old up to grandmaster at 12, culminating in his current world top 10 status, and on who his rivals are for the title of world champion.
Not many chess players can say they defeated a grandmaster at age 11, but Sergey did when he defeated Pavel Eljanov in the Ukrainian Team Championships in 2001, and from a level endgame at that! How did Sergey defeat one of the world's best players, Alexei Shirov, with masterful precision at the age of just 12? How did Sergey grind down the reigning world champion Vladimir Kramnik in 2004 in an opposite coloured bishop ending in the Dortmund playoff aged just 14? Enjoy these and many other scintillating games, along with the new ChessBase interactive format of Question & Answer, to enjoy an interesting documentary about one of the strongest players in modern day chess and his road from young prodigy to grandmaster and beyond!

Video running time: 5 hours.

27,90 €

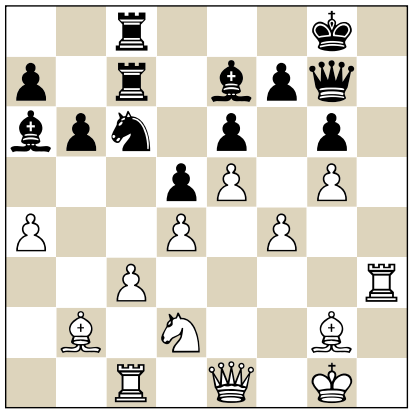
CHESSBASE GMBH · OSTERBEKSTRASSE 90A · D-22083 HAMBURG · TEL ++(49) 40/639060-12 · FAX ++(49) 40/6301282 · WWW.CHESSBASE.COM · INFO@CHESSBASE.COM
CHESSBASE DEALER: NEW IN CHESS · P.O. Box 1093 · NL-1810 KB Alkmaar · phone (+31)72 5127137 · fax (+31)72 5158234 · **WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM**

now was the appropriate time for concrete action.

30.g5! ♕g7

After 30...♕h5 White goes 31.♗f3!, and, as in the game, I manage to take control of the h-file without allowing any counterplay.

31.♖h3

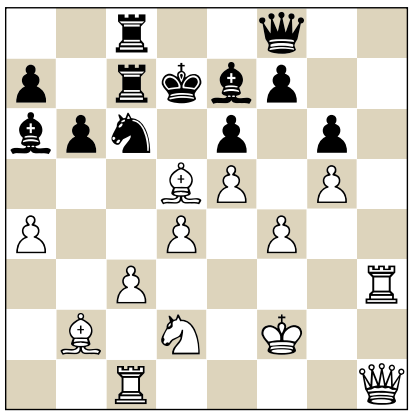


31...♔f8 If Black doesn't run with the king, he runs the risk of losing the queen or of allowing White to attack relentlessly on the h-file, for instance: 31...♘a5 32.♔f2 ♘c4 33.♘xc4 ♖xc4 34.♕d1! ♗b7 35.♕h1! ♖xa4 36.♕h2 ♖a2 37.♖h1 ♖xb2+ 38.♔g1! ♖b1+ 39.♗f1 f5 40.exf6, and Black is lost.

32.♔f2 ♔e8 33.♕h1 ♔d7 34.♗xd5!

Here I thought it was over and that Black's last chance was:

34...♕f8 After 34...♘xd4 I even noticed the strong 35.♘e4! exd5 36.♘f6+ ♗xf6 37.♕xd5+ ♔e8 38.exf6, with mate to follow.



35.♖h7!

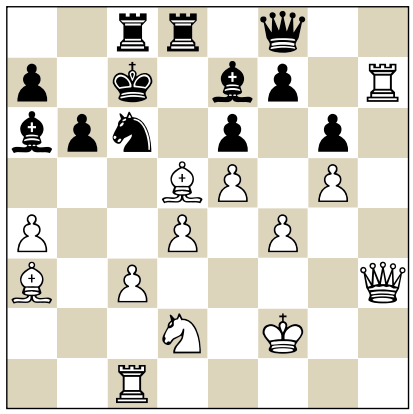
It took me some time to decide on this move, but I thought this was the cleanest. I really spent a lot of time on the next few moves so as not to botch up again as I had done earlier.

Ian Nepomniachtchi lost both his games against the ultimate winner and finished in a disappointing fifth place.

35...♖d8 36.♕h3 ♖cc8 37.♗a3!

Again the most precise!

37...♔c7



38.♗xe7?!

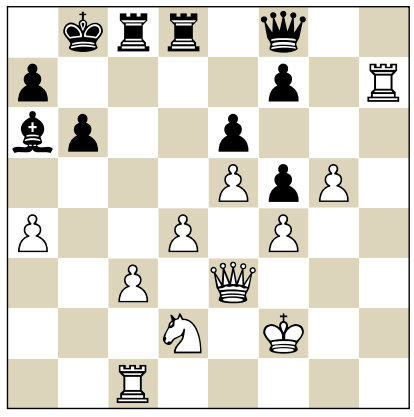
But here I thought for a long time and wasn't sure my first idea would work. It would: 38.♗d6+! ♗xd6 39.♕xe6! ♔b8! 40.♖xf7 ♘xd4! 41.cxd4 ♖xc1 42.♖xf8 ♗xf8 43.♘f3 ♗c8 44.♕f6!. I probably calculated up to this point, but here things didn't look that easy because Black can create a little counterplay against my king. However, the computer shark says that this is just absolutely hopeless for Black...

38...♘xe7 39.♗e4 ♔b8 40.♕e3?!

This is a real inaccuracy, seriously complicating the win.

Again with little time on the clock I decided against the obvious 40.a5! ♖xd4 41.cxd4 ♖xc1 42.axb6 axb6 43.♕a3 (I had missed this move, but even the prosaic 43.♖h8 ♘g8 44.♕b3 would win easily).

40...♘f5 41.♗xf5 gxf5



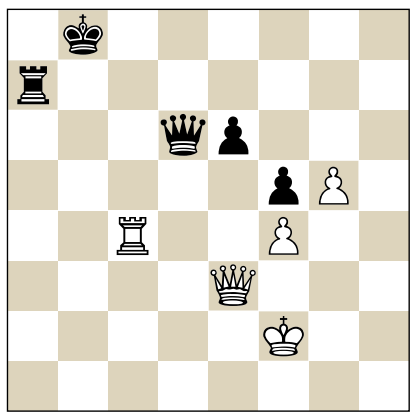
42.c4!

Finally, the time-control was passed and I managed to calculate accurately.

42...♖c7 42...♕b4! was the only chance, with the idea of 43.♖xf7 ♗b7!, when my task would have been significantly tougher.

43.a5! ♖cd7 44.d5! exd5 45.e6 fxe6 46.♖xd7 ♖xd7 47.axb6 dxc4 48.♘xc4 ♗xc4 49.♖xc4 ♕d6 50.bxa7+ ♖xa7

Up to here my play had been flawless, but I decided to give myself a couple more problems to solve with:

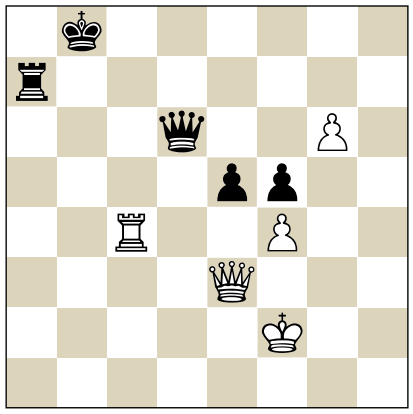


51.g6?!

Instead, 51.♕c3! ♖a2+ (or 51...♕b6+ 52.♔g2! ♖a2+ 53.♔h3 and wins) 52.♔e1! would have given my king a safe spot while continuing the attack. Now my g-pawn can advance safely and with lethal effect.

51...e5!

Ian tries his last chance. But this time I was up to the job.



52.♖c2! And not 52.♕xe5?? ♕xe5 53.fxe5 ♖a6 54.♔f3 ♖xg6, and now 55.♔f4 is impossible because of 55...♖g4+, effectively granting Black a draw. I had missed this when playing 51.g6, but fortunately I still had a winning move at my disposal.

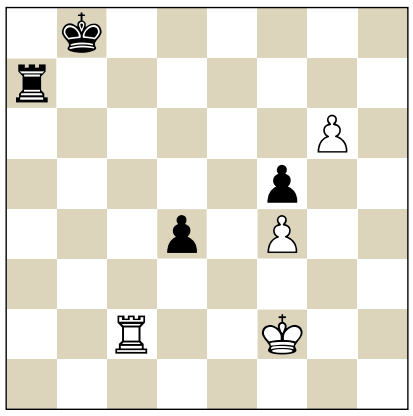
52...♕d4!

Black loses after 52...e4 53.♕b3+ ♖b7 54.♕g8+ ♔a7 55.♖a2+ ♔b6 56.♕b3+! ♔c7 57.♕f7+ ♔b8 58.♕xf5 ♕d4+ 59.♔g2, or 52...♕xg6 53.♕xe5+ ♔b7 54.♕c7+.

53.♕xd4

Maybe easier was 53.♖d2! ♕xe3+ 54.♔xe3, but it didn't occur to me.

53...exd4



54.♖c6!

Here at last I was sure I would get away with the full point.

54...♔b7

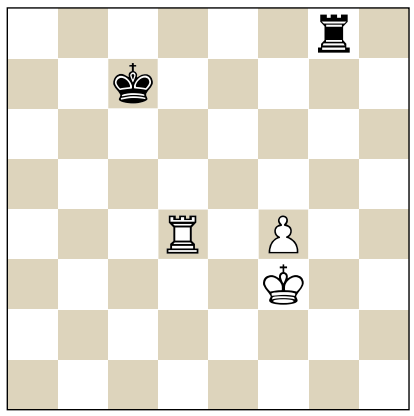
Or 54...♖e7 55.♖f6 ♔c7 56.♖f7 ♔d6 57.g7, and wins.

55.♖f6 ♖a2+ 56.♔g3 ♖a1 57.♖xf5!

Text-book positions were quite important for me in this tournament. Now it's an obvious win after:

57...♖g1+ 58.♔f3 ♖xg6 59.♖d5 ♔c7 60.♖xd4 ♖g8

On the first day Yannick Pelletier, in his new role of tournament director, welcomed debutants Ding Liren and Richard Rapport.



61.♔e4 You only need to avoid the trap 61.f5?? ♖d8, when you cannot exchange rooks, and 62.♖e4 ♔d7 63.♔f4 ♖e8 is again a draw.

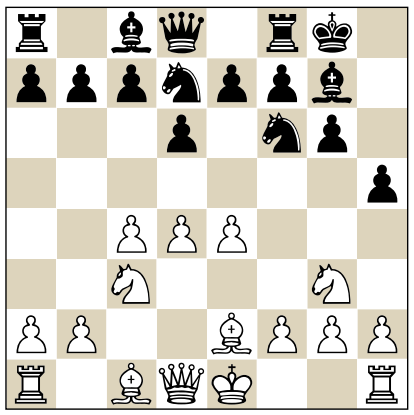
61...♔c6 62.♔e5 ♖e8+ 63.♔f6 ♔c5 64.♖d7 ♔c6 65.♖e7 ♖f8+ 66.♔e5 Now the king is cut off and the win is elementary. Black resigned.

■ ■ ■

In the same round Alexander beat Richard in a complicated game. This meant that with three rounds to go Liren, Alexander and I were only 1 point behind Etienne, further testimony to the homogenous character of the field. In Round 8, luck again was not on my side. After getting a winning position – admittedly out of thin air – I managed to spoil a winning rook ending, thinking that my way of playing should lead to a win. It didn't. This draw served Liren's purpose. He took the sole lead with two rounds to go with a game that was awarded the creativity prize, shared between the two players.

KI 31.5 – E70
Richard Rapport
Ding Liren
Biel 2013 (8)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘ge2 0-0 6.♘g3 ♘bd7 7.♗e2 h5



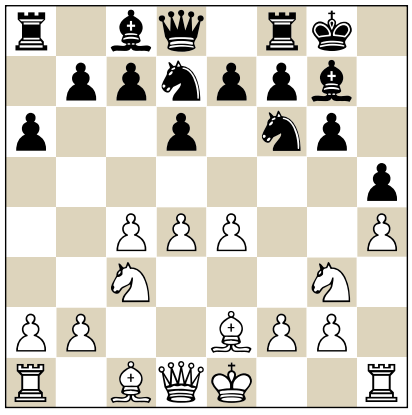
Theory is moving fast these days, especially in these not so fashionable variations. Therefore it came as no surprise for me to learn that this move is very recent. At the same time, the idea behind this move is quite obvious. The main lines are 7...e5 8.d5 a5 and 7...c5.

8.h4 Last year in Biel 8.0-0 e5 9.d5 h4 10.♘h1 ♘h7 was played between Bo-

logan and Bacrot. It is hard to say, but I would be inclined to let Black play ...h4, as it seems to me that the inclusion of White's h4, as happened in the game, is to Black's benefit.

8...a6

I guess that the point of this move is to prepare ...c5, while avoiding 8...c5 9. d5 a6 10.a4, after which ...b5 is impossible, so Black has to continue with ...♘e5, followed by ...e6.



9.♗g5

I am not so sure about this move, but White doesn't have so many developing moves which do not concede anything.

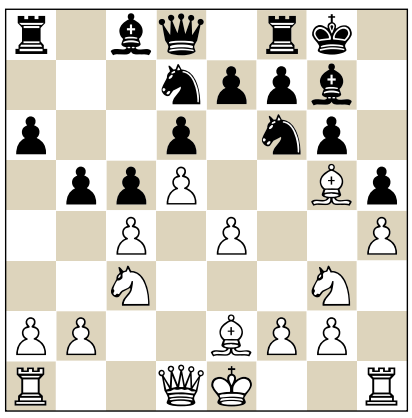
9.a4 e5 10.d5 a5 looks absolutely fine for Black, as he gets the blockade he needs on the queenside.

9.0-0?! ♘h7!, followed by ...e5, and the h4-pawn is suddenly very weak.

9.♗e3 c5 10.d5 b5 and the bishop doesn't feel comfortable on e3 as he can easily be under attack with ...♘g4.

I might have been tempted to play 9.♖b1 c5 10.d5, as the rook is now pretty safe, away from the diagonal. But White still has to take into account 10...♘e5 11.a4 e6 12.♗g5 ♕c7, with unclear play.

9...c5 10.d5 b5

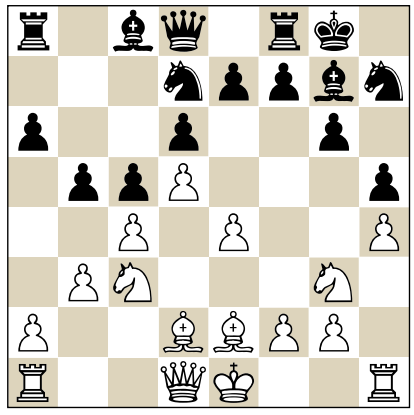


11.b3?!

I couldn't believe this move when I saw it played. Even coming from Richard, who had been playing very enterprisingly in all his games.

I think White should have played 11. cxb5 axb5 12.♘xb5 ♘h7 13.♗c1 ♘e5, with sharp Benko-like play in which I definitely wouldn't mind being on the black side.

11...♘h7 12.♗d2



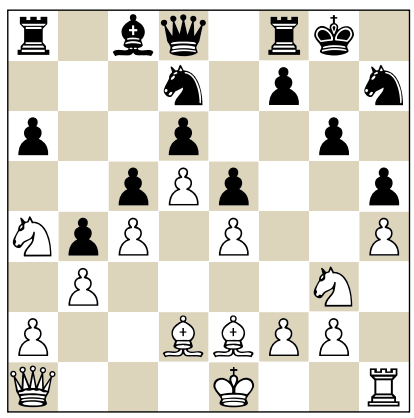
Of course, White gives up the exchange to get a grip on the dark squares, as is usually the case with this kind of sacrifice. At the same time, the position becomes rather closed so the extra exchange might not be so useful at the moment.

12...b4 13.♘a4 ♗xa1

I actually don't like this move too much. This bishop has such a good square available on d4 that it seems to be a pity to give it up.

I'd prefer 13...♗d4!? 14.a3 a5 15.♖a2 e6! followed by 16...♕f6, and I think it would have been even more difficult for White to justify his concept.

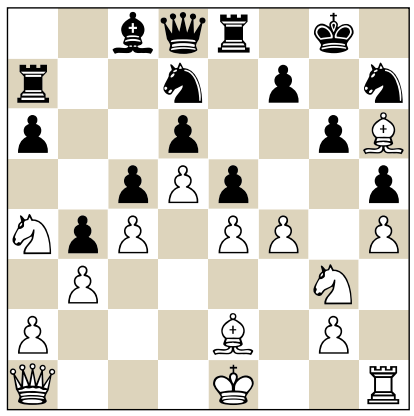
14.♕xa1 e5



15.♗h6!

The computer likes 15.dxe6 better, but after 15...fxe6 16.♗h6 ♖f7 17.♕d1 ♕e7 18.e5! (the point of the computer's play) 18...♘xe5 19.♘e4 d5 20. ♘exc5 dxc4 it seems to me that opening the lines so much can only be in favour of the black rooks, even at the cost of a few weaknesses.

15...♖e8 16.f4 ♖a7

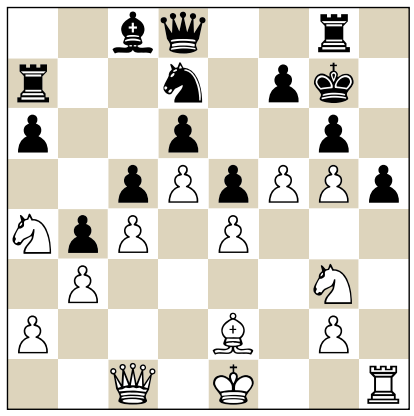


It seems very logical to bring the rook into play via the seventh rank. At least it is these days, after we've seen such ideas every so often in the recent past.

17.f5 ♔h8 18.♕c1 ♖g8

Again very logical, to defend Black's king.

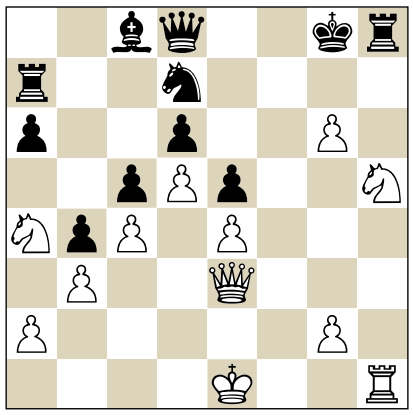
19.♗g5! ♘xg5 20.hxg5 ♔g7



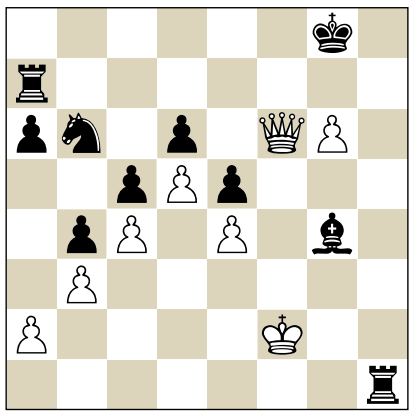
21.♕e3

I believe White would have equalized with 21.♗xh5! at this point, one move quicker than in the game: 21... gxh5 22.♘xh5+ ♔f8 23.g6 ♔e8! (23... ♘f6? 24.♕g5) 24.♕h6 ♘f6 25.♘g7+ ♔e7 26.♘h5! ♘xh5 27.♕xh5 fxg6 28.♕h7+ ♔f8 29.♕xa7 ♕g5 30.♖h7 ♕e3+, with a draw.

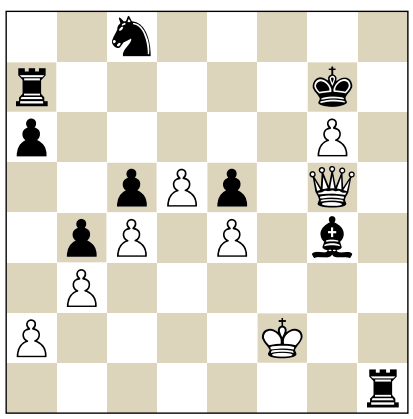
21...♖h8 22.♗xh5 gxh5 23. ♘xh5+ ♔f8 24.g6 fxg6 25.fxg6 ♔g8!



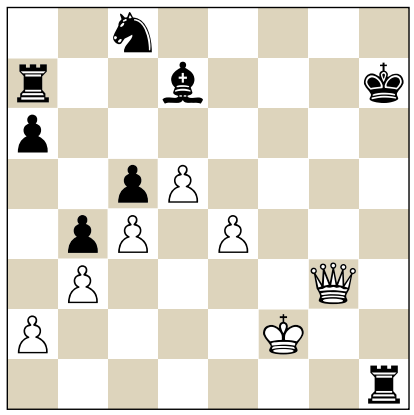
26.♕f3?! The best remaining chance for White was 26.g7 ♖h7 27.♕f3!. This is not at all obvious, as keeping the pawn on g6 seems very natural, but here Black's pieces are having a harder time to free themselves.
26...♕e7 27.g4 ♖h6 28.♘b6 ♘xb6 29.♘f6+ ♕xf6 30.♕xf6 ♖xh1+ 31.♔f2 ♗xg4!



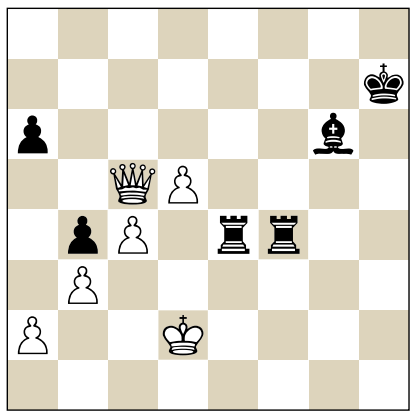
Of course, Black can give one piece back, he has too many already!
32.♕xd6 ♘c8 33.♕d8+ ♔g7 34.♕g5



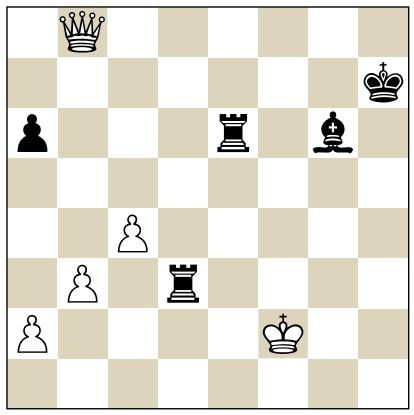
34...♗d7 Even easier would have been 34...♖h6!, as the presence of the knight annihilates any idea of perpetual check: 35.♕xg4 ♘d6 36.♕e6 ♖xg6 37.♕xe5+ ♔f7. The e4-pawn falls and with that White's king will soon follow, as it comes under a three-piece attack.
35.♕xe5+ ♔xg6 36.♕g3+ ♔h7



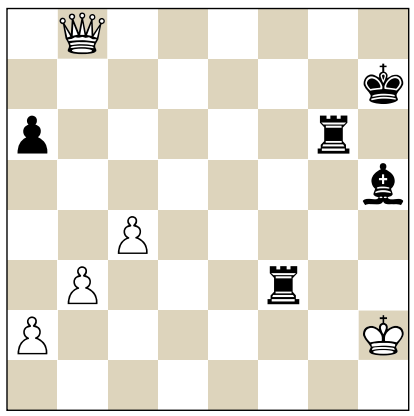
37.♕f4! A most resilient idea! Funnily enough, Black is not completely safe from perpetual check.
37...♗e8 38.♕f5+ ♗g6 39.♕xc8 ♖f7+ 40.♔e3 ♖e1+ 41.♔d2 ♖xe4 42.♕xc5 ♖ff4



But now again, despite some nice moves, three pieces are too much to endure for the naked king.
43.d6
Or 43.♕xb4 ♖f2+ 44.♔c3 ♖c2+! 45.♔xc2 ♖xc4+ and wins.
43...♖d4+ 44.♔e3 ♖fe4+ 45.♔f2 ♖d2+ 46.♔f3 ♖ed4
Prosaic but very efficient.
47.♕xb4 ♖xd6
Quicker, and a bit more aesthetically pleasing, was 47...♖4d3+, but you also have a bit more to calculate, which is not always what you want in such a winning position: 48.♔f4 ♖f2+ 49.♔g5 (49.♔g4 ♔h6! 50.♕c5 ♗f5+, and wins) 49...♖g3+ 50.♔h4 ♖g1 51.♕b7+ ♔h6, and wins.
48.♕b8 ♖f6+ 49.♔e3 ♖d3+ 50.♔e2 ♖e6+ 51.♔f2



51...♗h5! Efficiently pushing back White's king. **52.♔f1 ♖f3+ 53.♔g2 ♖g6+ 54.♔h2**



54...♖f7 Preventing any check against the black king; instructive regrouping. **55.♕e5 ♖fg7 56.♕f5 ♗g4 57.♕e4 ♗d7!** Controlling the e8-square, so White can't do anything against the following: **58.b4 ♔h8** And mate will follow soon. **59.♕a8+ ♖g8** White resigned.

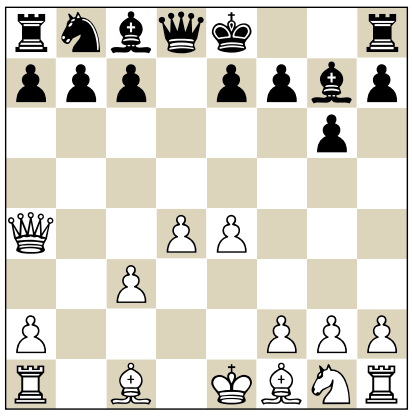
■ ■ ■

Ironically, Round 9 was my lucky day. After my deserved loss against Alexander, which won him the prize for the best technical game, I thought I had lost every chance to win the tournament, as Etienne seemed to have a strong attack against Richard, while Liren had what looked like a winning position against Ian. However, somehow Richard and Ian managed to defend their positions and two draws were the result. This meant that despite my off-day, I theoretically had a chance to force a four-player tiebreak if I beat Liren in the last round and Etienne and Alexander made a draw. But first let's have a look at the game that for a moment seemed to ruin my chances.

NOTES BY
Alexander Moiseenko

GI 4.1 – D85
Alexander Moiseenko
Maxime Vachier-Lagrave
Biel 2013 (9)

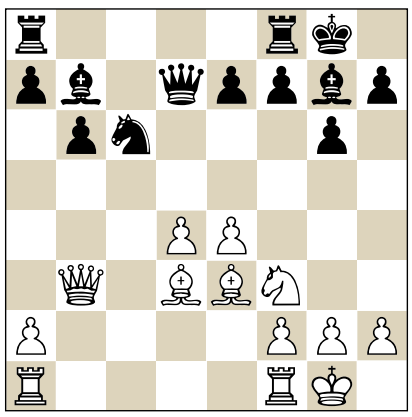
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7 7.♕a4+



I have played this variation against the Grünfeld a couple of times.

7...♕d7 8.♕b3 0-0 9.♗e3 b6 10.♘f3 ♗b7 11.♗d3 c5 12.0-0 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♘c6

Up to this point we have been following the game between Ragger and Vachier-Lagrave, played earlier this year in the German Bundesliga.



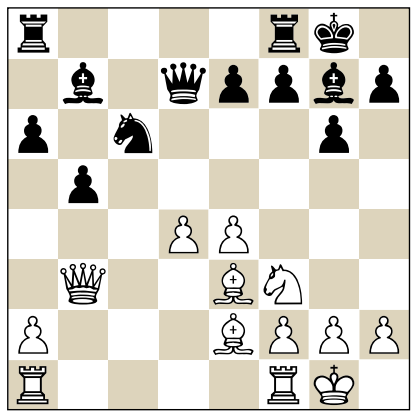
14.♗b5!

A novelty! This idea I had prepared together with Ukrainian GM Aleksandr Zubarev for this game. The pin is annoying for Black, and if the black pawns advance to a6 and b5, it will be easy to attack them with a2-a4!

The afore-mentioned game saw 14.♖ad1 e6 15.♗b5 ♕d6 16.♗c1 ♖fd8 17.♗g5 ♘xd4 18.♗xd8 ♖xd8 19.♕e3 ♕b4 20.♘xd4 ♗xd4 21.♕e2 e5, and ended in a draw after 54 moves.

14...a6 15.♗e2 b5

15...♘xd4? is impossible because of 16.♗xd4! ♗xd4 17.♖ad1 e5 18.♘xe5 ♕e7 19.♘xf7, with a decisive advantage.



16.d5! This is the key moment in the opening battle. White sacrifices the exchange for a strong initiative.

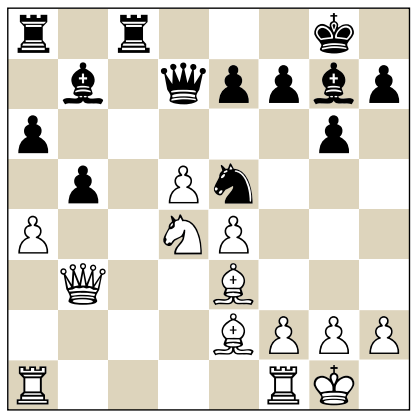
16...♘e5

The principled move was 16...♘a5, to take the exchange. But it is not easy for Black to play an unbalanced position against White's home preparation. For example 17.♕b4 ♘c4 18.♗xc4 ♗xa1 19.♖xa1 bxc4 20.♖b1!?, with strong compensation.

17.♘d4 ♖fc8

After 17...♘g4 18.♗xg4 ♕xg4 19.f3 ♕d7 20.a4 White has a stable edge.

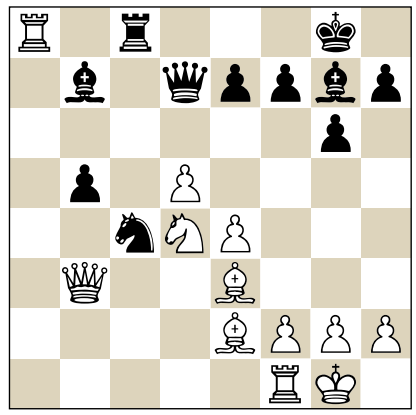
18.a4!



18...♘c4!

The natural 18...bxa4?! 19.♖xa4 ♖c7 20.h3 leads to a very unpleasant position for Black. White will press on the b-file (♖b1 and then ♖b4) and the black pieces are not well coordinated.

19.axb5 axb5 20.♖xa8

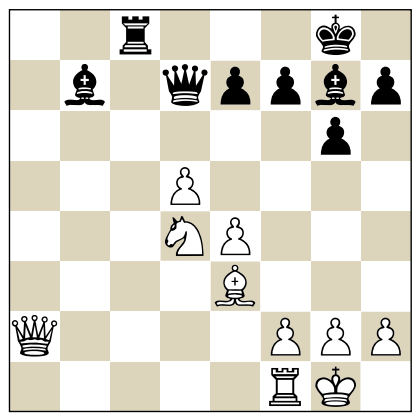


20...♖xa8 I think 20...♗xa8 21.♘xb5 ♘xe3 22.♕xe3 would have been better for Black, but anyway White has a healthy extra pawn.

21.♗xc4 bxc4 22.♕xc4 ♖c8

Black cannot win the exchange with 22...♗a6 in view of 23.♖a1 ♗xc4?? 24.♖xa8+ ♗f8 25.♗h6 and mate.

23.♕a2



23...♗xd4!?

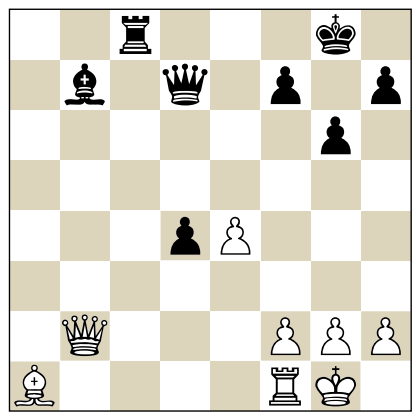
A very concrete defensive try!

24.♗xd4 e6 25.♗a1!

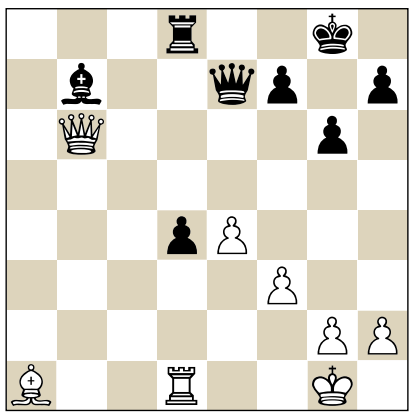
After the 'logical' 25.♗f6 exd5 26.♕d2 ♕d6 27.e5 ♕f8 28.h4 h5 it would not be easy to break down Black's defences.

25...exd5 26.♕b2 The careless 26.♖d1? would be met by 26...dxe4!.

26...d4

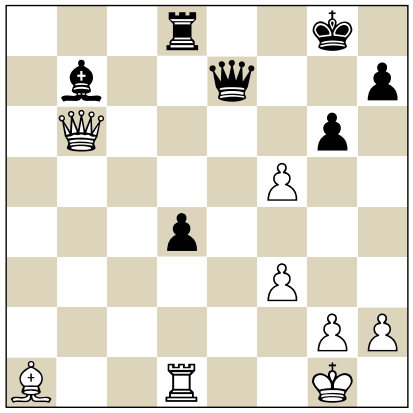


27.f3 My idea was to capture the pawn on d4 while keeping the queens, rooks and bishops on the board. Any exchange increases Black's drawing chances. **27...♖d8 28.♕b6! ♕e7 29.♖d1**



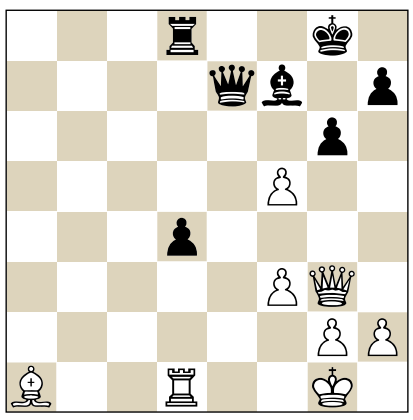
29...f5 The computer suggests 29...d3, but after 30.♕b2 f6 31.♕xf6 ♕xf6 32.♗xf6 ♖d6 33.♗c3 ♗a6 34.♗d2! the endgame is winning for White.

30.exf5



30...♖d6 The sacrifice 30...♗xf3 doesn't work, as after 31.gxf3 ♕e3+ 32.♔g2 ♕e2+ 33.♔g3 ♕e5+ 34.♔h3 ♕xf5+ 35.♔g2 ♕c2+ 36.♔g3 Black has no more checks.

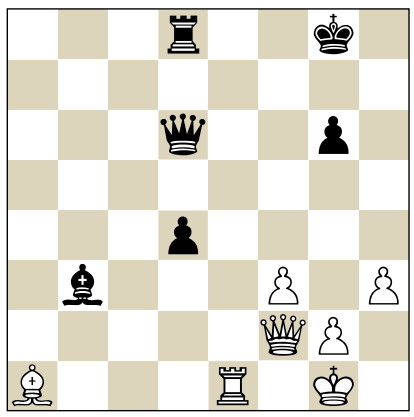
31.♕b3+ ♗d5 32.♕b8+ ♖d8 33.♕g3 ♗f7



34.♕f2! Less clear is 34.fxg6 ♗xg6 35.h4 d3, although here, too, White keeps a large advantage.

34...♗b3?! More stubborn was 34...gxf5 35.♗xd4, but I think this position should also be winning, since Black's king is very weak.

35.♖e1 ♕d6 36.fxg6 hxg6 37.h3



37...♕f4 In a blitz game Black could have tried 37...d3!?, with the idea of 38.♕b2?? ♕d4+! 39.♕xd4 ♖xd4 40.♗xd4 d2 41.♖a1 d1♕+ 42.♖xd1 ♗xd1, and despite White's two extra pawns the endgame is drawish. But, of course, 38.♕h4 is just mate!

38.♖e4 ♕c1+ 39.♖e1

A repetition of moves because of slight time pressure.

39...♕f4 40.♗b2 d3 41.♕b6

Black resigned.

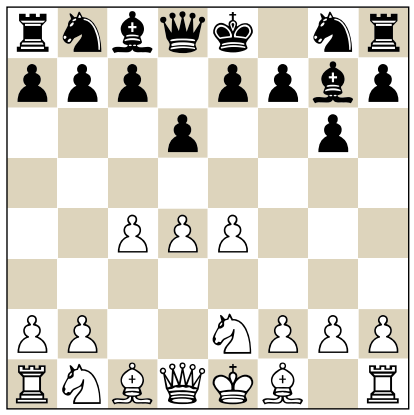
■ ■ ■

Before the last round I actually managed to compose myself and produced what I consider to be a good game, given my history in the tournament and the inherent tension of a last round that lasted for six and a half hours!

KF 4.3 – A41
Maxime Vachier-Lagrave
Ding Liren
Biel 2013 (10)

1.c4 g6 2.e4 ♗g7 3.d4 d6 4.♘e2!?

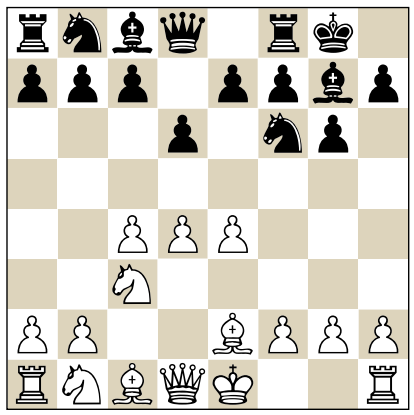
This move I found during the always crucial last hour of my preparation. Having no really good idea for my intended 1.e4, I started digging desperately for any subtle King's Indian move order to take my opponent out of his comfort zone very quickly, and I stumbled upon this idea of Ivanchuk's, which immediately gives Black food for thought.



4...♘f6 5.♘ec3 0-0

Maybe the immediate 5...e5 makes sense here, with the idea 6.d5 ♘a6 7.♗e3 ♘c5 8.♘d2 a5, and Black gets a set-up he cannot achieve if he castles immediately. But there is more work to do afterwards to justify this set-up, such as finding counterplay on the kingside before White manages to repel the knight on c5 with a3, followed by b4.

6.♗e2

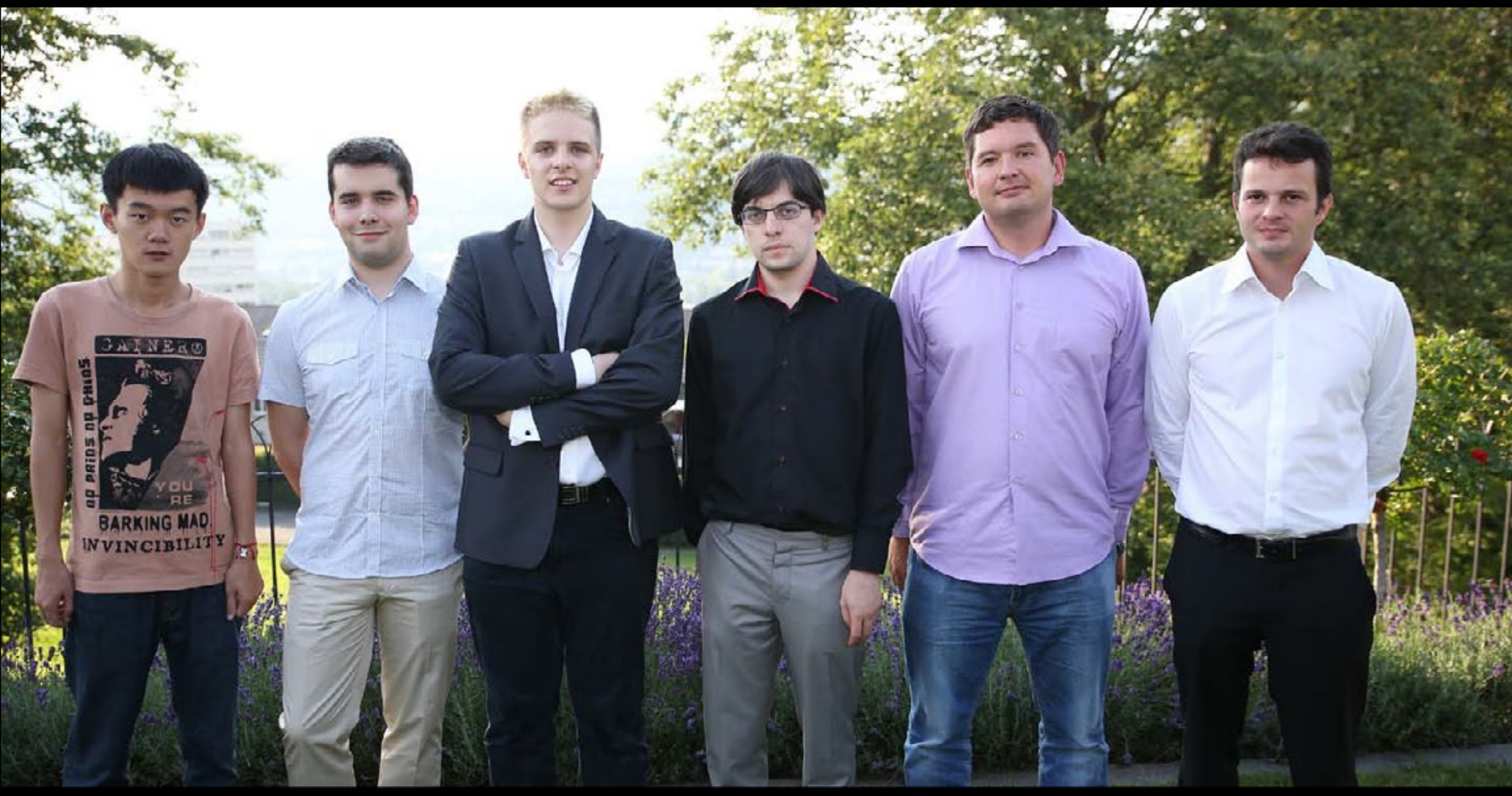


6...♘fd7!?

A very interesting answer, though possibly not so good objectively.

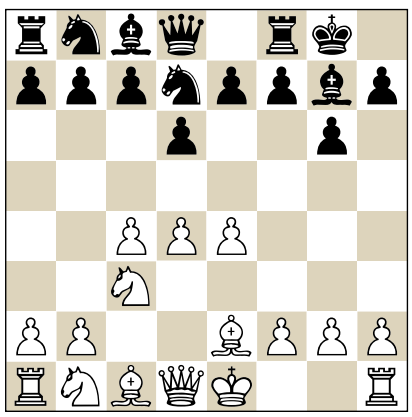
After 6...e5 7.d5 ♘bd7, 8.♗g5! makes quite a big difference, as provoking ...h6 is generally good for White: 8...h6 9.♗e3 ♘c5 10.♘d2 a5 11.a3, with a white edge.

6...♘c6 might be a critical try as well, with the idea 7.d5 ♘e5 8.0-0 (8.h3 c6 9.♗e3 e6!, and now White has to castle because 10.f4? ♘xc4 11.♗xc4 exd5 12.exd5 ♖e8 13.♕e2 ♕e7 14.♔f2 b5!



The six contestants in the Olivier Breisacher Memorial: Ding Liren, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Richard Rapport, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Alexander Moiseenko and Etienne Bacrot.

gives Black too much play) 8...c6 9.h3 a6! 10.a4!?, with sharp play. But Black isn't allowed his counterplay on the queenside, so things look pretty good for White to me.



7.d5!?

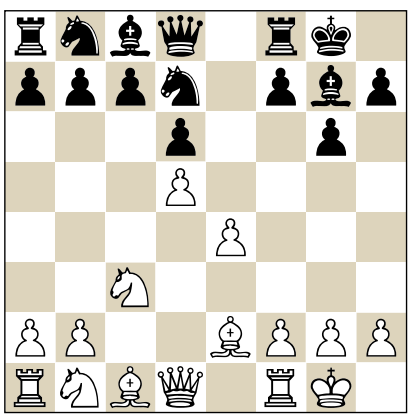
7.♗e3! is the automatic answer and probably good, as Etienne showed me after the game. This could be the right way to play for White: 7...e5 8.d5 f5 9.exf5! (9.f3 ♗h6! is the main reason why ♗g5 is often a good idea for White, as ...♗h6 disrupts White's set-up: 10.♗f2 ♘f6) 9...gxf5 10.f3 (after 10.0-0 f4 11.♗c1 ♘a6 I am not talking about the objective value of Black's position. In general I wanted to avoid the typical KID set-ups, as my opponent virtually plays only King's Indians himself, and I thought I shouldn't play into his hand too easily) 10...a5 (10...e4!? leads to typical stuff, but maybe White is fine after 11.fxe4 f4 12.♗f2 ♘e5 13.♘d2, followed by ♘f3) 11.0-0 ♘a6 12.♘d2, and White stands slightly better.

On the other hand, 7.0-0?! is bad, as Black's knight gets to d4 easily with 7... ♘c6 8.♗e3 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5.

7...e6?!

This was played too quickly perhaps. I thought the best plan for Black was to play 7...♘c5 8.♗e3 (8.♕c2 f5!) 8...a5 9.0-0 ♘ba6 followed by ...f5.

8.0-0 exd5 9.cxd5

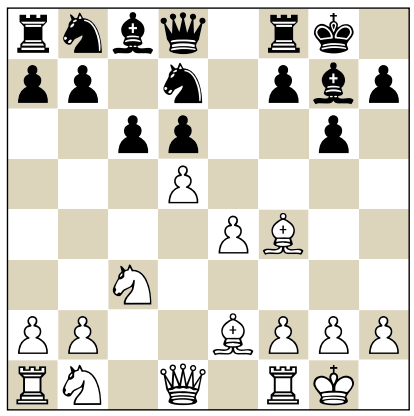


9...c6?

I don't have any explanation for why Ding Liren played this so fast. I thought he had to play 9...f5 to justify his idea, with the following sequence: 10.exf5 gxf5! 11.f4!? (after 11.♘d2 f4 12.♘de4 ♘e5 13.f3 ♘bd7 14.♗d2 a6 White may be objectively on top, but things are getting very tricky and Black's play looks fairly easy as long as he doesn't lose his whole queenside). I would probably have gone for this to keep control of the essential e5-square, though this move also has its drawbacks.

10.♗f4

White has a lot of good options here, but I thought I might as well attack the weak pawn.



10...♗e5!?

In case of 10...♖e8 11.♗xd6 ♘f6 12.e5! ♘xd5 13.♘xd5 cxd5 14.f4 my calculations didn't betray me. White is much better after 14...♕b6+ 15.♔h1 ♕xb2 16.♘a3.

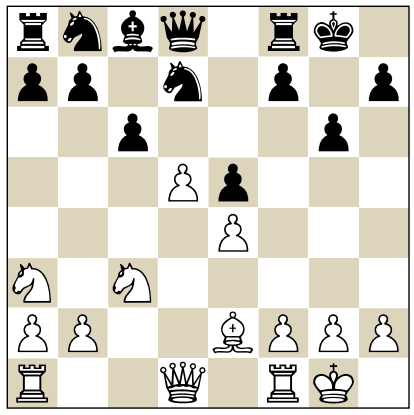
After 10...♘e5 White has 11.♘a3 (11.♕d2 also yields White very good play) 11...g5 12.♗xe5! ♗xe5 13.♘c4.

11.♗xe5 dxe5

Here, basically, Black's idea is to develop as soundly as possible, knowing he can never exchange pawns on d5, as it would leave White with a formidable passed pawn on d5 – or even d6, supported by rooks and knights. Combined with an open c-file, this would usually be devastating. Meanwhile, on his part, White will take his chances to hinder Black's development and try to create weaknesses in Black's position.

12.♘a3

A very logical move, as the knight generally belongs on c4, and it doesn't block the important d-file from the a3-square.



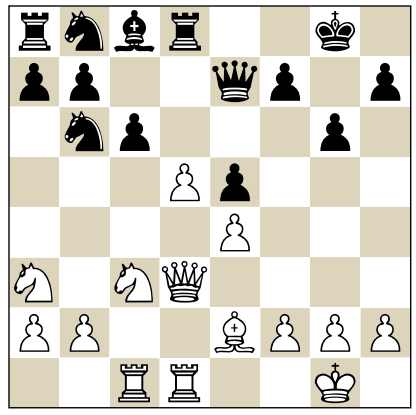
12...♘b6!

Controlling the c4-square and revealing the only drawback of 12.♘a3, as White cannot play a4-a5 now.

13.♖c1 ♕e7

I thought that 13...♕g5!? might just be the best square for Black's queen, when White continues 14.♘c2! ♖d8 15.♘e3 cxd5 16.exd5 ♘c6! 17.♗d3 ♘d4 18.♘e4, with a clear advantage.

14.♕d3 ♖d8 15.♖fd1



15...♗d7

This move surprised me a bit, as I was expecting ...♘a6 all the time. But maybe it is the best chance to hold things together at this point, with the bishop on e8, intending to try and seize a decent opportunity later to develop the rest of the queenside.

After 15...♘a6 White has 16.♘c4! ♘xc4 17.♕xc4 ♖d6, and here concrete play is a viable option: 18.dxc6 ♖xc6 19.♘d5 ♕g5 20.h4!.

16.♘c4 ♘xc4 17.♕xc4 ♗e8

INSIDE CHESS
1988-2000

Inside Chess magazine was published from January 1988 to January 2000. Now you can own the complete run of 284 issues on DVD in searchable PDF format!

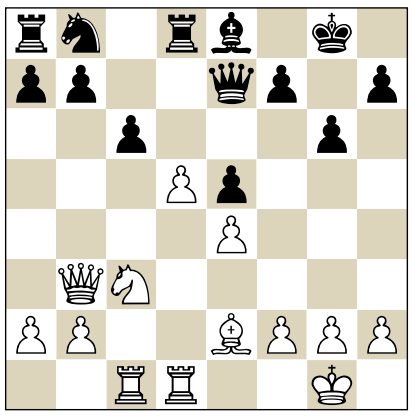
- All 284 issues!!
- Three DVD set!!
- Searchable PDF format!!
- Easily find events, openings, & players!!
- One Table of Contents file for all issues!!
- One Index file for all issues!!

ChessCafe.com

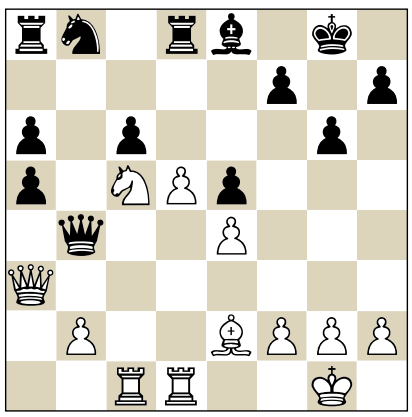
INSIDE CHESS

1988-2000

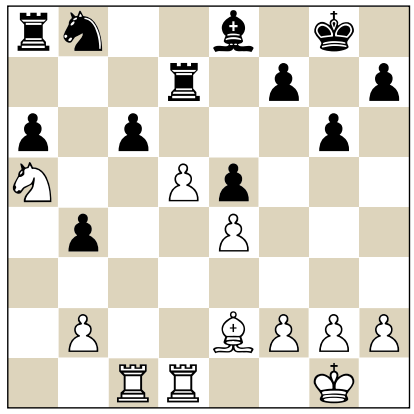
18.♕b3!
With the obvious idea of continuing to frustrate Black's development.



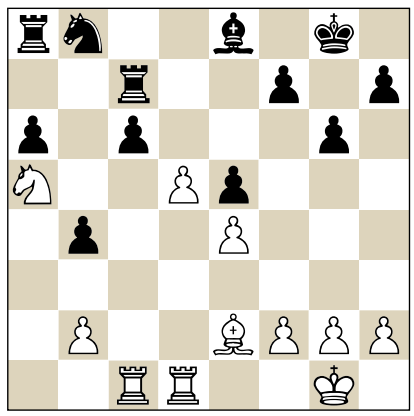
18...b6
After 18...♔g7, 19.d6! is the other point of 18.♕b3: 19...♕d7 20.♘b5! ♘a6 21.♘a3 f6 22.♗xa6 bxa6 23.♕e3, and White is winning.
19.a4
Finally managing to provoke weaknesses on the queenside.
19...♕c7 19...♘d7 fails to 20.dxc6 ♘c5 21.♘d5! ♘xb3 22.♘xe7+ ♔f8 23.♖xd8 ♖xd8 24.c7, and White wins.
20.a5 bxa5
And here, in case of 20...♘d7, 21.♘b5! ♕b8 22.dxc6 ♘c5 23.♖xd8 ♕xd8 24.♕d5 is the easy way to the win.
21.♕a3 a6 A bit desperate, but it is hard to suggest another move to develop the queenside, as the knight still can't move.
22.♘a4 ♕b7 23.♘c5 ♕b4



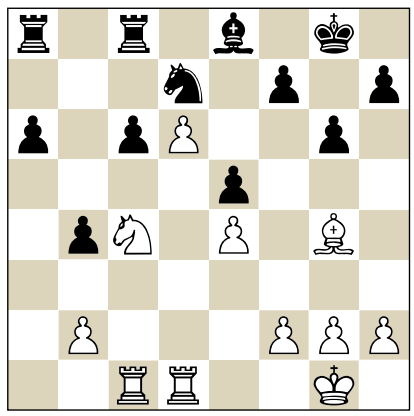
Here I had mixed feelings. I knew that I had played more or less precisely and that I still had a huge advantage. But at the same time I was not seeing any forced wins yet and I had used up a lot of time. Given my history of wasting great positions in the tournament, it would already not have surprised me at all if I had managed not to win this position...
24.♕xb4 axb4 25.♘b7 ♖d7 26.♘a5!



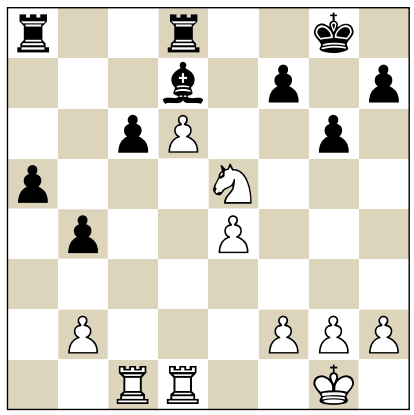
Thus far I had done a great job overall of exploiting my opponent's inaccurate play in the opening.
26...♖c7 Or 26...♖aa7 27.♖c4! ♖d8 28.d6, and wins.



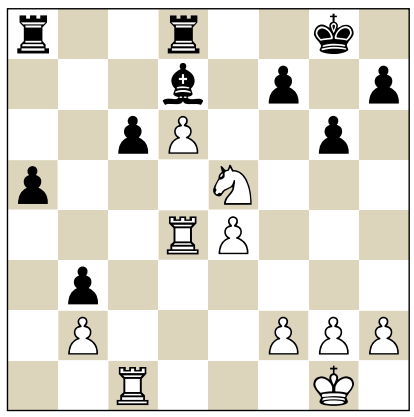
27.d6?! Played too fast, as I was already short of time. Nevertheless, had I spent 30 seconds more, I might have found 27.♗g4!, which wins on the spot, as d6 is now a far more devastating threat. Black has no choice but to play 27...♗d7 28.♗xd7 ♘xd7 29.♖xc6 ♖ac8 30.♔f1, and White wins.
27...♖c8 28.♘c4 ♘d7 29.♗g4



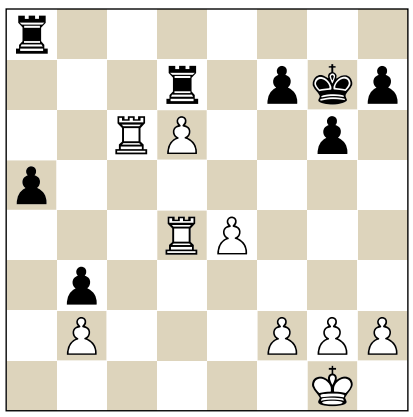
29...♖d8
I had managed to calculate 29...f5 30.exf5 h5 31.♗f3! gxf5 32.♘e3 e4 33.♗e2 ♗g6 34.♗c4+ ♔f8 35.♗e6, and Black is lost, but I had underestimated the technical difficulties remaining in the game, thinking that my position was absolutely winning.
30.♗xd7 ♗xd7 31.♘xe5 a5!
Forced, to create a passed pawn and some counterplay on the queenside.



32.♖d4 But I thought that this move prevented this idea with great effect. My idea was to follow up with ♘d3-c5, with an easy win.
32...b3!
This move was an unpleasant surprise. My position is still won, but I have to allow some unpleasant counterplay.



33.♘xd7
I rejected 33.♘xc6 on account of 33...♗xc6 34.♖xc6 a4, but here I have 35.♖b4!. The rook on c6 helps to consolidate, and after 35...♖ac8 36.♖xc8 ♖xc8 37.f4 White wins.
33...♖xd7 34.♖xc6 ♔g7
After 34...a4 White wins with 35.g3! ♔g7 (35...a3 36.bxa3 ♖xa3 37.♖b4!) 36.♖c7! ♖xc7 37.dxc7 ♖c8 38.♖xa4 ♖xc7 39.♖b4.

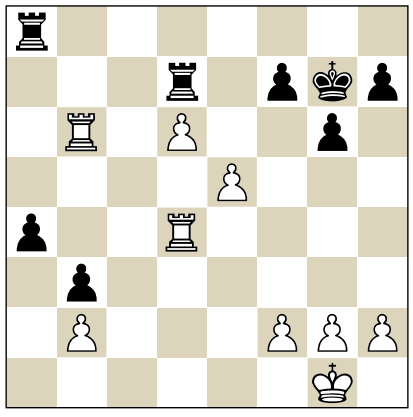


35.♖b6?!

Probably the easiest win was 35.♖c7!, with the idea of 35...♖xc7 36.dxc7 ♖c8 37.♖c4 ♔f6 38.♔f1 ♔e6 39.♔e2 ♔d7 40.♔d3 and the pawn endgame is winning. For some unknown reason I decided against it, though.

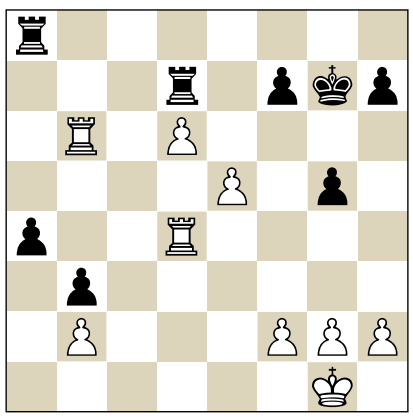
35...a4 36.e5!

I thought that nothing really bad could happen now, as my position looked very solid. But here Ding Liren again defended resourcefully.



36...g5!

Black loses after 36...♖e8 37.f4 f6 38.♖b5!.

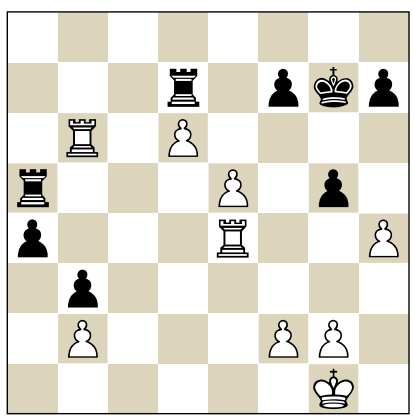


37.h4?!

Too hasty. I miscalculated something in my time-trouble.

37.g3 would have been the right way to play, as after 37...♖a5 38.f4 gxf4 39.gxf4 ♔g6 40.♔f2 ♔f5 41.♖b8! a3 42.bxa3 ♖xa3 43.h4 h5 44.♔e2 White wins without too much trouble. But I didn't really like the idea of weakening my king, as it would allow some counterplay with no time to calculate.

37...♖a5! 38.♖e4



38...♔g6!

In case of 38...h6, 39.h5! cuts off Black's king and now after g3/f4 White has an easy win, as Black has no counterplay anymore.

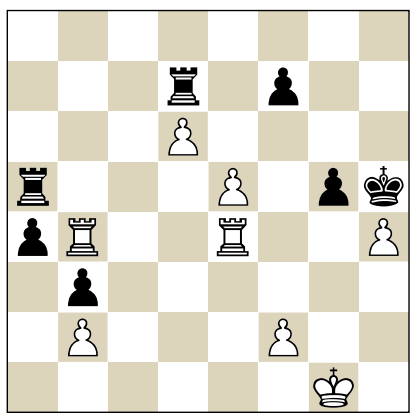
39.g4 h5! 40.gxh5+

I thought I had seen a win after 40.e6 fxe6 41.♖xe6+ ♔f7, but suddenly I realized there was none.

40...♔xh5

With more time on the clock again, I thought I had time to be precise again and to not let the win slip.

41.♖bb4

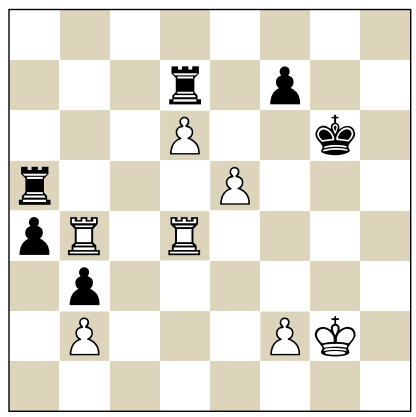


41...♖da7!

Another precise defence to give me a hard time.

White wins after 41...♔g6 42.♖xa4 ♖xa4 43.♖xa4 gxh4 (I actually managed to see the idea of 43...f6 44.♖a7!, which leads to an easy win: 44...♖xa7 45.e6 ♖a1+ 46.♔g2 ♖d1 47.d7) 44.♖f4!.

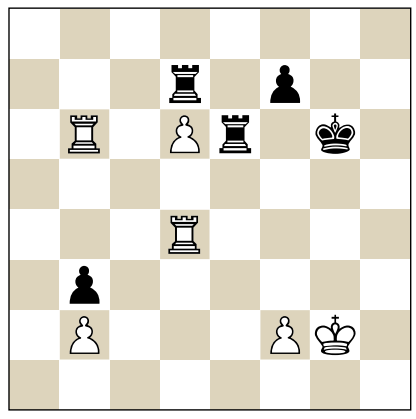
42.♔g2 gxh4 43.♖xh4+ ♔g6 44.♖hd4 ♖d7



45.♖xa4?

I don't know if this move lets the win slip, but it was obviously better to play 45.f4 a3 46.bxa3 ♖xa3 47.♖b8 ♔f5 48.♔f2, after which it seemed to me that White should win. However, the consequences were anything but easy to calculate.

45...♖xe5 46.♖ab4 ♖e6 47.♖b6



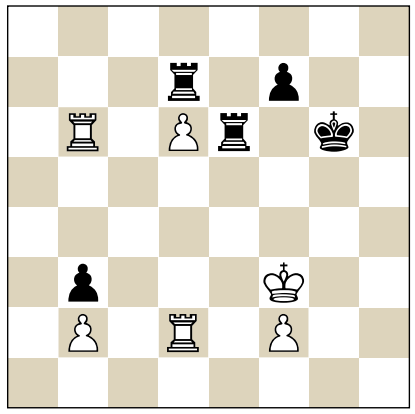
Here I was again with not much time on the clock, and this time in a position which I thought was drawish. But at least the situation had changed, and it was Ding Liren who had to play accurately, while I had all the time in the world to gradually improve my position and come up with a plan.

47...♔f5 48.♔f3 ♔g5 49.♖d5+

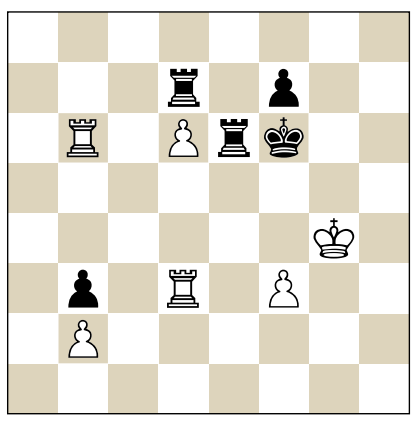
49.♖b5+ ♔f6 50.♖bd5 ♖e1 51.♖d1 ♖e8 52.♖1d3 is another set-up for White that I think is drawish.

49...♔f6 50.♖d4 ♔g5 51.♖d3 ♔f6 52.♖d5 ♔g6 53.♖d2

Gaining a lot of time and trying to get to move 60 without any complications or a committal pawn move.



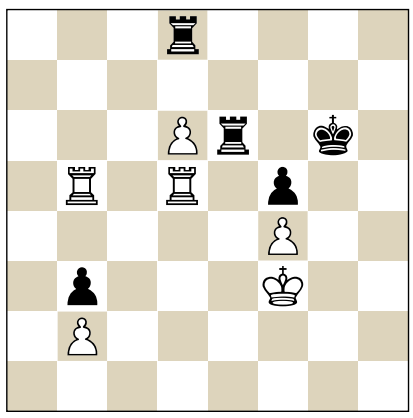
53...♔g7?!
It would probably have been wiser to prevent the king from coming to the fourth rank and instead allow both rooks on the d-file: 53...♔f5 54.♖b5+ ♔f6 55.♖bd5, but it was not easy to foresee White's plan. Nor would it have been easy to advise someone to go for this position, even though Black should hold after 55...♖e8 56. ♖2d3 ♖b8, as White's king cannot quite enter the queenside: 57.♔e4 ♖b4+ 58.♖3d4 ♖b6 59.♔d3 ♖c6.
54.♔f4 ♔g6 55.f3 ♔f6 56.♖d5 ♖d8 57.♖f5+ ♔g6 58.♖d5 ♔f6 59.♖d3 ♖d7 60.♔g4



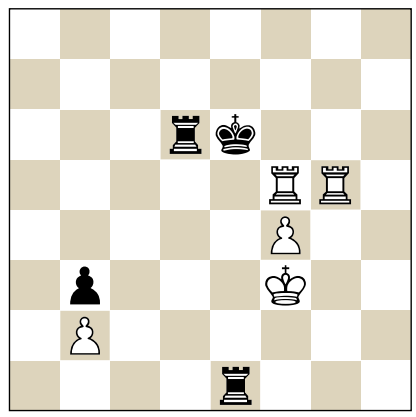
60...♔g6 After 60...♔e5 61.♖b5+ ♔f6 62.♖f5+ ♔g7 63.♖fd5 ♔f6 64.f4! ♔g7 65.♔f3! f5 (the only move) 66. ♖xf5 ♖exd6 67.♖xd6 ♖xd6 68.♖b5 ♖d3+ 69.♔e4 ♖h3 70.♔e5! ♖e3+ 71.♔f5! White is winning easily, as Black's rook is committed to the third rank: 71...♔f7 72.♖b7+ ♔e8 73.♔f6 ♖h3 74.f5 ♖f3 (the only move) 75. ♖e7+ ♔f8 76.♖f7+ ♔e8 77.♖b7!, and Black is in zugzwang: 77...♖h3 (77...♔d8 78.♔e6 ♖e3+ 79.♔f7, and wins) 78.♖b8+ ♔d7 79.♔g7 ♖g3+ 80.♔f7, and White wins.

Before the last round Maxime Vachier-Lagrave managed to compose himself and produced what he considered to be a good game.

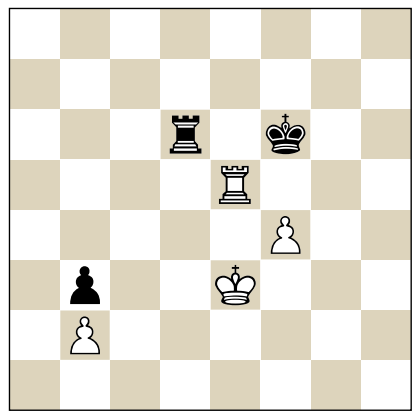
61.f4 I convinced myself that this was the only way to make progress.
61...f5+ 62.♔f3 ♖d8 63.♖d2!
An important waiting move.
63...♖d7 64.♖d5 ♖d8 65.♖bb5!
It was at this point that I thought that my position was winning again. And I was probably right.



65...♖dxd6 Bad is 65...♖f6? 66.d7!. This is why the waiting move was important, to put Black's rook on d8.
66.♖xf5 ♖e1
In case of 66...♖d3+ 67.♔g4 ♖e2 68. ♖b6+ ♔g7 White plays 69.♖a5!, combining the weaknesses of Black's king and b3 with perfect effect: 69...♖g2+ 70.♔f5 ♖d7 71.♖xb3, and this is probably a technical win. But I thought that keeping both sets of rooks on the board was Black's best bet.
67.♖g5+ ♔f6 68.♖bf5+ ♔e6



69.♖e5+! Simplest. Now White is probably winning, although there is still some work to be done.
69...♖xe5 70.♖xe5+ ♔f6 71.♔e3!
71.♖e3 ♔f5! forces White to go back, as 72.♖xb3?? ♖b6 will allow Black to save himself.



71...♖b6?! Black's best chance was 71...♖d1, but after 72.♖b5 ♖h1

73.♔d4 ♖h3 74.♔c4 ♖f3 75.♖xb3 ♖xf4+ 76.♔c5 there is a text-book win. Here are some variations, but it is always useful to try and work things out in more detail:
– 76...♔e7 77.♖d3, and this is a fairly easy win, as I somehow remembered – the b-pawn manages to get to b5: 77... ♖f8 78.b4 ♖c8+ 79.♔b5 ♖b8+ 80.♔c4 ♖c8+ 81.♔b3 ♖b8 82.♖d4! ♔e6 83.♔c4 ♖c8+ 84.♔b5 ♖b8+ 85.♔c6, and finally the b-pawn advances;
– 76...♔e6 77.♖b7! – cutting off the black king in this fashion is often effective; 77.♖d3 also wins, but in a much more complicated manner: 77... ♖f2 78.b4 ♖c2+ 79.♔b6 ♔d6 80.b5, and Black cannot prevent the march of the b-pawn.
72.♔d3 ♖d6+ 73.♔c3 ♖d1 74.♖e4 ♔f5 75.♖d4 Black resigned.

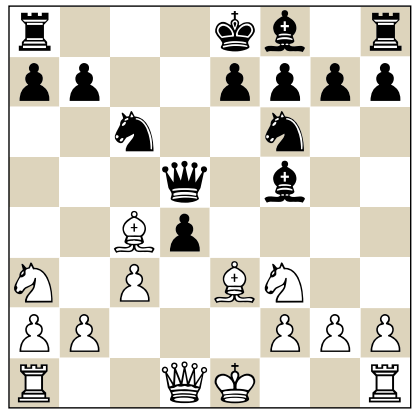
■ ■ ■

And so, as Etienne and Alexander indeed made a draw, there was a tie-break on the final day involving no fewer than four players. Thanks to the football scoring system that awards three points for a win. Although Etienne had finished on +2, and Liren, Alexander and I on +1, we all had a total of 14 points. Suddenly I was in a confident mood again, as I could say half-jokingly: 'Rapids, no time to think, no time to blunder!'

The semi-finals consisted of blitz games and I convincingly defeated Liren 2-0 while Alexander won 2-0 against Etienne. Then the final consisted of two rapid games, and finally my Alapin proved decisive in a very nice manner.

SI 46.4 – B22
Maxime Vachier-Lagrave
Alexander Moiseenko
Biel rapid playoff 2013 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.c3
I have played the Sicilian long enough to know that the Alapin is not as innocuous as it might seem. But for some reason this was the first tournament where I decided to use it.
3...d5 4.exd5 ♕xd5 5.d4 ♗f5 6.♗e3 ♘f6 7.♘a3 cxd4 8.♗c4



8...♕a5! Not, of course, 8...♕e4? because of 9.♗xf7+. **9.♘xd4 ♘xd4 10.♗xd4 e5** When playing 8.♗c4 I had missed that this move was possible, but when I noticed it, I managed to calculate far ahead. So even though I didn't have an advantage here I could put a lot of pressure on the clock.

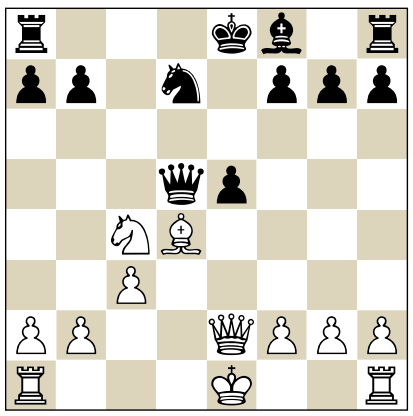
DON'T BLUNDER WITH YOUR EDUCATION.
PLAY CHESS HERE.
UT DALLAS

If you're interested in playing chess at an American university, we want to hear from you. The University of Texas at Dallas offers highly competitive scholarships to master-level players. For more information, please contact Program Director Jim Stallings at james.stallings@utdallas.edu one year in advance of your intended fall enrollment date.

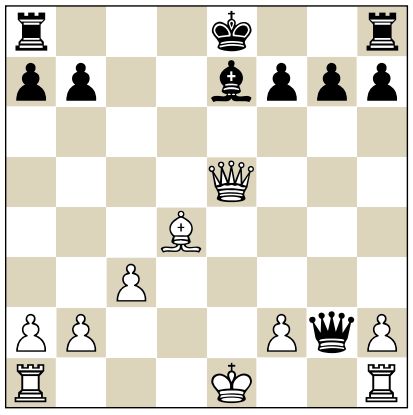
utdallas.edu/chess

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

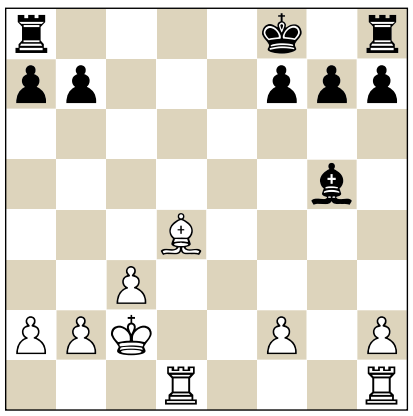
11.♗b5+ ♗d7 12.♗xd7+ ♘xd7 13.♘c4 ♕d5 14.♕e2



14...♗e7?
I think Alexander tried to trade pieces, but in the process his position becomes very suspect.
He had to play 14...f6 15.0-0 (15.0-0-0 ♖c8!) 15...♗e7 16.♖ad1!, although White definitely has an initiative here: 16...♕e6 17.f4.
15.♘xe5 ♘xe5 16.♕xe5 ♕xg2

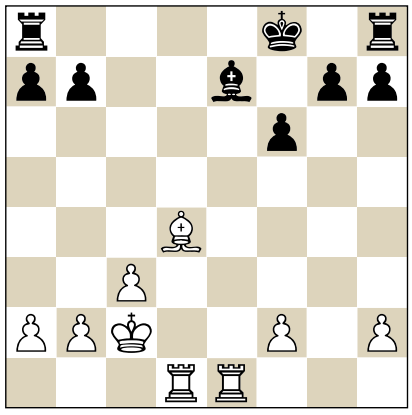


17.♕b5+!
Very precise. Now Black's rooks cannot coordinate properly.
17...♔f8 18.0-0-0 ♕g5+ 19.♕xg5 ♗xg5+ 20.♔c2 The queen exchange doesn't bring Black any relief, given the huge difference in piece activity. White is far better.



Alexander Moiseenko and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave shake hands at the start of the first game that essentially decided the tiebreak.

20...♗e7?!
The only way to defend the position was 20...b6!, even if after 21.a4 ♖g8 22.♖he1 ♖e8 23.a5 White takes good advantage of the weakness of the black queenside.
21.♖he1 f6



22.♗xa7!
I almost premoved, but I restrained my hand, probably only because I had made so many blunders in the tournament already!
22.♗e3 is actually just as strong, as the threat of ♖d7 is impossible to parry. Indeed 22...♖d8 would be met just as in the game.

22...♖d8
After 22...♖xa7 23.♖d7 White wins an exchange or gets both rooks on the seventh rank: 23...♗c5 24.♖d8+ ♔f7 25.♖xh8, and wins.
23.♗c5!
The final touch, which wins a piece. Black resigned.

■ ■ ■

All I had to do now was hold the second game, which I finally managed to do, although not before going through some very scary moments. What obviously followed was relief, but even a few days after the tournament was over, I still could not forget about the downside of my play, as I wasted so many opportunities early on. On the bright side, my play with white was very consistent and yielded me a lot of pleasant positions. And despite the exhaustion caused by only long and/or hard-fought games, it was certainly an excellent experience and a good lesson for the future. Still, I hope that next time I will not spoil so many half points. ■

Biel 2013 — **cat. XIX**

					1	2	3	4	5	6		TPR
1	Maxime Vachier-Lagrave	IGM	FRA	2719	* *	½ 0	½ ½	0 1	1 1	½ ½	14	2743
4	Alexander Moiseenko	IGM	UKR	2699	½ 1	* *	½ ½	½ 0	½ 0	1 1	14	2747
2	Etienne Bacrot	IGM	FRA	2714	½ ½	½ ½	* *	1 ½	½ ½	1 ½	14	2780
3	Ding Liren	IGM	CHN	2714	1 0	½ 1	0 ½	* *	½ ½	½ 1	14	2744
5	Ian Nepomniachtchi	IGM	RUS	2717	0 0	½ 1	½ ½	½ ½	* *	½ ½	10	2671
6	Richard Rapport	IGM	HUN	2693	½ ½	0 0	0 ½	½ 0	½ ½	* *	6	2563

3 points for a win, 1 for a draw

Short Stories

Commuting to Canada

In 1981, prior to our departure for the World Junior Championship in Mexico City, my second, Michael Stean, suggested that, due to the adverse effects of jet-lag, 1½/2 would be a very respectable start. Being young and ambitious and having taken the silver medal as a 15 year-old behind Garry Kasparov in Dortmund the previous year, I found this prognosis to be disappointingly pessimistic. I had every intention of getting off to a flyer and felt irritated by the timidity of my coach's expectations. But when during the first round I found myself staring at an errant bishop in my hand, after physically picking up the wrong piece, I understood exactly what he meant. Thankfully, this lapsus manus was not fatal, but it so easily could have been.

I was so jolted by this unnerving experience that, nine years later, I went to the great trouble and expense of arriving in Manila a whole week in advance of the Interzonal.

The dismal economics of professional chess generally militate against such extravagance, but my decision was considerably eased by the fact that I had substantial corporate sponsorship at my disposal, from Eagle Star Assurance Company. The plan was fundamentally sound, but needed to be executed well. Ironically, I still began with a miserable 1½/4, but at least jet-lag was not to blame.

Edmonton, in the oil-rich province of Alberta, lies a whopping nine time zones away from my home in Athens. Last year, when I won the 10 player round-robin there, I took the wise precaution of visiting both Ottawa and Toronto beforehand, giving simuls and lectures. Travelling from the same country (even one as huge as Canada) is a lot easier than crossing continents. This year, though, I came straight from Europe and suffered horribly. The ostensible reason was that my schedule did not allow the same regimen: I had played in (and won) the Spice Net tournament in Tanzania just a few days earlier. However, the East African safari was very much a last-minute decision. The real reason I chose not to repeat a winning formula was that I didn't wish to foist myself on a generally appreciative but slightly jaded Canadian public at the same chess haunts for the third or fourth year in a row.

The late starts in Edmonton – at 6 and even 7 p.m. – meant that the games began at 3 and 4 in the morning according to my internal clock. That would already be bad enough for a fit 20-year-old, but was simply catastrophic for a middle-aged man. Insomnia compounded the assault to my biorhythms, the upshot being that I played half the event in a zombie-like trance. By the time I had recovered, the impressive Cuban Lazaro Bruzon, coming off the back of a shared first place at the World Open in Arlington, Virginia, was already far ahead in the distance and practically unstoppable – barring some self-inflicted implosion. Our own game, in Round 2, had been a debacle: I stumbled into a lost position as early as move 12 with white, and failed to notice my queen being trapped a few moves later (not that it mattered a jot by that stage). The humiliation was mercifully swift. Another defeat followed, to Viktor Mikhalevski. I then failed to beat Richard Wang from a completely winning position, despite having seen the correct continuation.

I recovered partially, with a late spurt of 4½/5 – or 13/15 according to the ridiculous Bilbao System – beating an out-of-form Eric Hansen on the way to finish in a distant second place. The tournament, however, belonged completely to Bruzon: even a surprising last-round draw with white, to tail-ender Robert Gardner, left him with a monstrous, dominating 8 points out of 9. The Cuban's friend, Dr. Guillermo Isidor Marcelo, has long assured me that he is really a big talent – an opinion I had previously tended to dismiss as the normal bias of someone close. But after his victorious rampage across North America (he would later win in Montreal as well) I have somewhat modified my views.

A little bizarrely, perhaps, I then headed back home for about a week before flying out to Canada again – this time to Ottawa. Now, I was accompanied by my 14 year-old son, Nicholas, who was about to be plunged into his first tournament. I have been asked numerous times why I have not given him intensive chess training over the years. In brief, he attends the State School for the Art of Dance and also is a member of the best children's choir in Greece. He has per-

formed at all the main concert halls, the open-air Herodion under the Acropolis and at the Presidential Palace. Quite honestly, there is a limit to what he can successfully devote his time to.

For some reason, I was much less affected by jet-lag. The time difference was a slightly more tolerable 7 hours and I had an ample supply of Melatonin – as recommended by Mikhail Krasenkow – but it also greatly helped being in the cosy, friendly surroundings of the Ritchie household, where I have had the pleasure of staying several times. I first met Gordon in 2007, when he helped organize the Canadian Open, but he had sensibly decided he would be damned if he would do it again. No – he was going to play himself this year.

I do not wish to deprecate the selfless efforts of the dedicated group of individuals who devoted so much energy to hosting this event in the capital (on the contrary, we, as chess players, are indebted to them) but, nevertheless, there were certain things which could and indeed should have been done better. Firstly, it is inconceivable that, in 2013, the top boards of the most prestigious tournament in the country did not, for the most part, have live Internet transmission (a few sporadic games were eventually shown, but only at the end). The organizers cannot be blamed for the manner in which the intended collaboration with Monroi fell through, but unfortunately there were no contingency plans in place. Secondly, and rather more seriously, when pairings have been published online since the previous evening, one simply cannot suddenly change them 10 minutes before the start of play (as happened for the second round) whatever the excuse. That is akin to tearing up a contract.

Otherwise, with one final exception (see end) things went pretty smoothly organizationally. Your writer began with four straight wins before being held by the defending champion, Eric Hansen, in a Scotch Four Knights – which has been enjoying a modest resurgence of popularity of late. This enabled Ivan Sokolov, who had travelled straight from a somewhat frustrating Dutch Championship, to storm into clear first place with the maximum score. Our game, an English Opening, ended in repetition after a fluctuating struggle. Curiously, with his impetus now checked, the Bosnian failed to notch up any further victories.

> ‘When during the first round I found myself staring at an errant bishop in my hand, after physically picking up the wrong piece, I understood exactly what he meant.’

In Round 7, I defeated Leonid Gerzhoy with reasonable comfort, despite blundering an exchange for a pawn in a Queen’s Gambit (as accidents go, it was relatively benign). The next day, I found myself playing the same opening, but this time with white, against my former student Elshan Moradiabadi from Iran. Imprecisions abounded from both sides, but critically he allowed his queenside pawn-majority to be hamstrung. This enabled me to build up what should have been an overwhelming advantage. I then partially flubbed it, but the ensuing endgame, of rook and two pawns for two minor pieces, was still difficult for my opponent – particularly when short of time. Resistance ended abruptly when he suddenly allowed his bishops to be forked by my rook.

I was now tied for first with Eric Hansen, but had the very tough pairing of Black against Lazaro Bruzon, the top seed. Eric drew quickly – although the game looked anything but pre-arranged – against his good friend, Aman Hambleton, with whom he will live the next year in Europe. With a two pawn deficit, Hambleton understandably forced a repetition, although a bold knight sacrifice would have given him the upper hand. Meanwhile I played calmly and sensibly against Bruzon, in a Steinitz Deferred, until accepting a draw shortly after the mandatory 30 moves. White had less time, if anything stood worse, and had the sort of position, with potential weaknesses, that could rapidly go pear-shaped. Nevertheless, with a greater reward for a win, I think some others would have gambled in his shoes in the same situation.

No one else managed to catch us. It emerged that I had pipped Hansen in the tie-break, although there was no trophy to be awarded, as it was, apparently, lost in Toronto. I believe it is the only closing ceremony I have attended in which the winner was not called forward to receive acclamation. As Les Bunning, the master of ceremonies, had bought me an excellent dinner the previous night, this omission was not made out of malice. Perhaps though, next time, these details could be done better. ■

Beijing Shakh Mamedyarov

The fifth leg of the Grand Prix series was held in Beijing, the capital of China. Originally the penultimate stage was scheduled to take place in Berlin, but as we know now the German capital was only selected because it sounded good and not because there was any actual interest there to provide a venue for the 2012-13 FIDE GP. The last-minute intervention of the Chinese Chess Federation was most welcome to the FIDE leadership, who, pleased and relieved, may have hoped that the players didn't even notice the change. After all, Beijing very much sounds like Berlin, doesn't it? **Anish Giri** travelled east, curious how the fight for the coveted tickets to the next Candidates' tournament would develop. And with some ambitions of his own.

The fifth stage of the Grand Prix was of major importance to the players still fighting for the two tickets to the next Candidates' tournament, especially since the leader of the series after four legs, Veselin Topalov, was taking part. Yours truly was considering the Grand Prix standings merely out of curiosity (like most of us mortals), but some other participants had personal interests. Mamedyarov, Morozevich, Grischuk, Caruana and Karjakin

PHOTOS ANASTASIYA KARLOVICH

‘Shakhriyar occasionally has spectacular and dangerous opening ideas, but mostly it’s his imaginative talent that ensures his success.’

(and perhaps a couple of others such as Nakamura) all still had legitimate hopes of finishing amongst the chosen two, depending on the constellation of the stars in the sky.

Now, if I sounded somewhat uninvolved, I should clarify right away that this was not the case at all. Not only do I keep fighting no matter what is at stake, but I had also promised the New In Chess readers in my report on the Zug GP in issue 2013/4 that I was going to strike back and inflict a painful defeat upon at least one of the great players.

Now if you have no time to waste on my report, here is a summary for you: a) I succeeded, b) Topalov was the first GP participant to qualify for the 2014 Candidates' tournament, and c) I would be disappointed in you, my busy reader, if you left it at this.

However, if you're still with me, then let's talk about the Beijing GP in some more detail. The location of the event is a special topic and one issue of this magazine would not suffice to describe it fully. Nevertheless, I will attempt to give you an idea of what our two weeks were like.

The players stayed in the pleasant (and, most importantly, air-conditioned!) New Century hotel, with all necessary and unnecessary facilities, including a restaurant, swimming pool, gym and, very important, a table tennis room. Perhaps not all of you know that some of the best professionals are quite decent table tennis players. Alexander Motylev (who seconded Sergey Karjakin) is just a 'beast', while Peter Leko, Boris Gelfand and Alexander Grischuk are always there to give him a tough time. Former challenger Boris Abramovich is even taking table tennis lessons three times a week these days, so there you go.

> 'Some of the best professionals are quite decent table tennis players.'

Fortunately for me (by the way, I am also a table tennis enthusiast, but I still have a serve or two to learn from the great maestros), the main tournament was played on the chess board and after a sleepy (i.e. jet-lagged) visit to the swimming pool, the comical technical meeting and a sweet opening ceremony, I was ready to fight my ambitious opponents.

Running ahead a bit, in the very first round it was I who created the future leader, Sergey Karjakin, with my own hands. I caught Sergey in a deeply prepared line of his pet Berlin, and although the compensation for the pawn that I sacrificed wasn't that evident to the human eye, my advantage took on quite serious forms. The position certainly wasn't easy to play, but I still didn't have to blunder my key pawn, after which all the minuses of his position turned into pluses. Unfortunately for me, there wasn't even a way to steer the game into drawing territory and Sergey convincingly clinched the point. Another lucky man that day was Veselin Topalov, who profited from the tiredness that Boris Gelfand must have accumulated after his victory at the Tal Memorial.

In my second game I went for a rather miserable move repetition against Alexander Morozevich. I hadn't achieved anything out of the opening and my position didn't appeal to me. However, Alexander made my life much easier by clarifying the situation move after move, and when he offered me a repetition of moves he even missed a surprising shot. But as we both completely missed it, the draw was a fair result.

Fed up with such games, I decided to go all-out in my next game, especially since I felt that Boris Gelfand was far from his optimal form. By move 10, I was already disgusted with the situation that had arisen on the board after I mishandled the Leningrad Variation of the Dutch Defence (a long time ago the clever Levon (Aronian), who, not without my help, beat me in this variation, observed that it is the right choice against me, as I was born in Saint-Petersburg and I reside in the Netherlands).

ANASTASIYA KARLOVICH

Veselin Topalov saves energy at the 'comical technical meeting'. The Bulgarian clinched overall first in the Grand Prix and qualified for the 2014 Candidates' tournament.

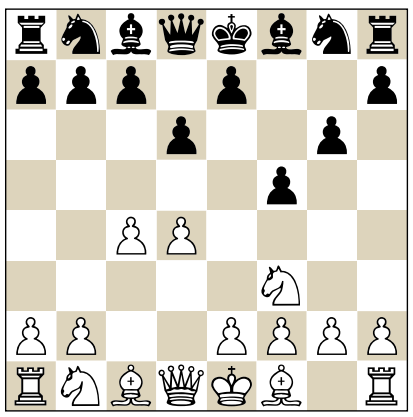
NOTES BY
Anish Giri

HD 6.3 – A88
Boris Gelfand
Anish Giri
Beijing 2013 (3)

1.d4 The good thing when playing Boris is that you can be pretty sure you aren't going to be surprised. His opening approach can be compared with that of a massive tank which is moving closer and closer and there is not much you can do about it... Except going for the Dutch.

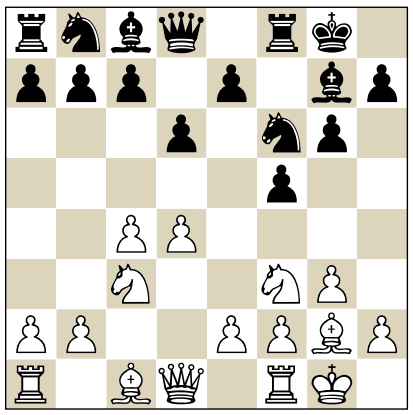
1...d6! I can try to explain what was the deep point behind my move order, but I doubt that there was any.

2.♘f3 g6 3.c4 f5



Finally daring to touch the f-pawn. I remembered I wanted to play the Dutch already in the previous Grand Prix, when Karjakin surprised me with 1.d4. Although I was pretty desperate back then as well, my hand simply couldn't make such a move. This time, though, I had had a whole day to morally prepare.

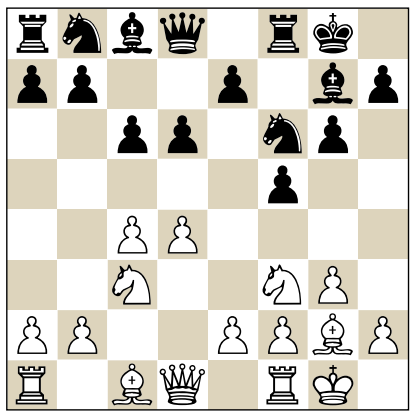
4.♘c3 ♘f6 5.g3 ♗g7 6.♗g2 0-0 7.0-0



We have reached the tabiya of the Leningrad Dutch. I am very familiar with the position, as I used to spend a lot of time on it back in the days when I regularly played local Dutch heroes Friso Nijboer and Dimitry Reinderman. The latter, by the way, just stole my Dutch Championship title.

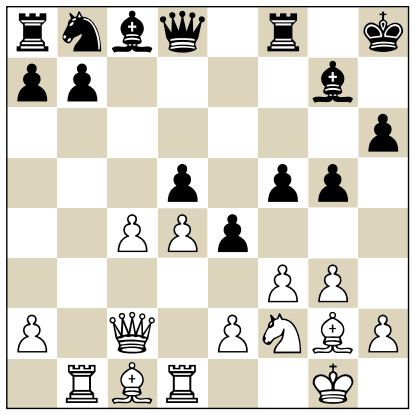
7...c6

Already back then I realized that this is one of the toughest systems to crack, and it seems that Hikaru Nakamura and Gata Kamsky, who both keep playing the Dutch from time to time, have reached the same conclusion.



8.b3!? I was mostly expecting the critical moves 8.d5 or 8.♖b1. I have a lot of pleasant memories of the move 8.♖b1, as I found the idea of 8.♖b1 ♘e4 9.♕c2! long before Kramnik showed it in his game against Nakamura in Wijk aan Zee 2010, when I wasn't strong enough yet for the A-Group myself. Listening to the story that Vladimir Borisovich needed a shower at 3 a.m. to come up with this idea, I felt quite hip.

After 8.♖b1 ♘e4 9.♕c2 ♘xc3 10.bxc3! e5 11.♖d1 e4 12.♘g5 h6 13.♘h3 g5 14. f3! d5 15.♘f2 ♔h8 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.c4!



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

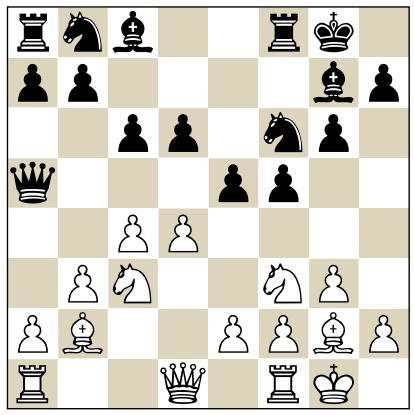
Kramnik managed to blow up Nakamura's beautiful centre and proceeded to crush the ambitious American. Unfortunately for the white players, though, if Black knows what he is doing, such fairy-tales are unlikely to be repeated again.

Alternatively, 8.d5 e5 9.dxe6 ♗xe6 leads to a King's Indian-like structure (where Black goes ...e5xd4), but first of all Black has more space (compared to such King's Indian positions) and more control of the centre, and secondly the f-pawn is often ready to move forward, creating nice attacking chances. On the other hand, Black has many weaknesses, so I spent quite a long time devising the right move order to make sure that Black would be fast enough to consolidate and launch his initiative.

8...♕a5

I have to say that I ended up in quite a bit of trouble out of the opening, so for my next game against Boris I will have to look for an alternative somewhere between moves 8 and 12. I knew the idea of 8...♕a5 and 9...e5, as it is the main reply (statistically speaking) against the set-up with b3, so I saw no reason to start reinventing the wheel over the board.

9.♗b2 e5



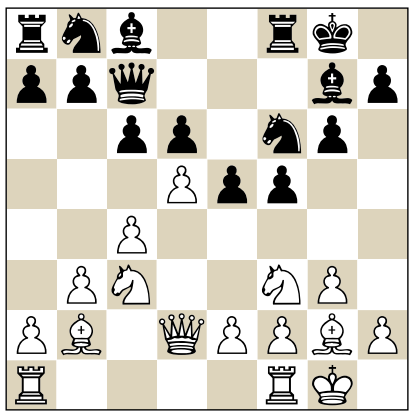
10.♕d2!? This one took me by surprise. In general I was of the opinion that White should react to 9...e5 with the sequence 10.dxe5 dxe5 11. e4 (when 11...f4 will lead to unclear play), as otherwise it appeared to me that Black would get the dream position of the Dutch, when the opening would indeed be looking like an im-

proved King's Indian, as the f-pawn has already joined the massive pawn force.

However, Boris showed me that ...e5 isn't the solution to all problems.

10...♕c7 11.d5

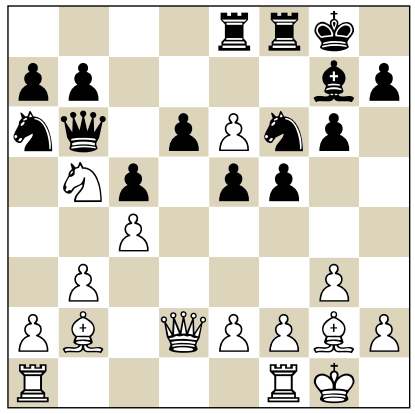
I was still expecting 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.e4, but then Black doesn't seem to be doing that badly after the typical developing move 12...♘a6!.



11...e4

Somehow the set-up with ...e4 and ...♕e7 that I had in mind, felt quite good intuitively, so I didn't hesitate too much. However, I underestimated the dangers.

11...c5 was played by the great expert of the Leningrad, grandmaster Malaniuk, but I am not sure his decision was that great. Obviously, strategically Black is very happy to close the position and get a good version of the King's Indian, but here White has the typical ideas of the Bayonet Variation of the King's Indian (with which I, by the way, have experience, losing to Kramnik in Hoogeveen 2011 and barely saving my skin against Boris in the London GP last year): 12.♘g5!. If only Black could prevent this move, he would stand wonderfully. Now he has no time to collect the pawn that will appear on e6, so he is in trouble: 12...♘a6 (in case of 12...♕e7 13.♘e6 ♗xe6 14.dxe6 e4 Black is almost there, but not just yet: 15.f3!? – 15.♘d5 ♘xd5 16.cxd5) 13.♘e6 ♗xe6 14.dxe6 ♖ae8 15.♘b5 ♕b6



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

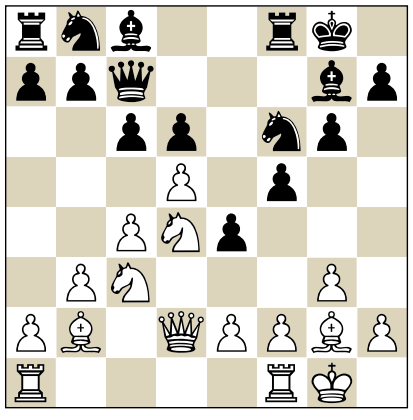
and here Malaniuk's opponent could have destroyed Black's position with the clever 16.♗c3! (after 16.♕xd6 e4! Black was still in the game in Georgiev-Malaniuk, Yerevan Olympiad, 1996).

11...h6, played by Emanuel Berg against Mihail Marin in 2004, was incredibly clever, but White obviously won't give Black the chance to close the position: 12.dxc6! bxc6 and now White got tempted and entered complications that were in Black's favour.

Still paying $$$ to play chess??
Play for FREE at Chess.com
Join the world's largest chess community with over
7 million players from all around the world.
All Titled Players (incl. National and FIDE Masters!) get
FREE lifetime Diamond Memberships.
Create Your Free Account at Chess.com and Start Playing Today!
- Live Chess
- Correspondence
- Tournaments
- Team Matches
- Video Library
- Tactics Trainer
- Opening Explorer
- Computer Analysis
- Forums
- News
- Articles
- ChessTV
Chess.com

Instead he should have played in the spirit of our game: 13.♖ad1! (Marin went 13.c5 d5 14.♘xe5 ♕xe5 15.♘xd5 ♘e4 16.♗xe5 ♘xd2 17.♗xg7 ♔xg7 18.♖fd1 ♘a6 19.♖xd2 cxd5 20.♖xd5 ♖b8, and in the end the game was drawn) 13...e4 14.♘e1 ♖d8 15.f3!. Finally, the flexible 11...♕e7 can be met by 12.dxc6 bxc6 13.e4!?, my favourite move, as you may have noticed, and here I don't think Black is in time to develop.

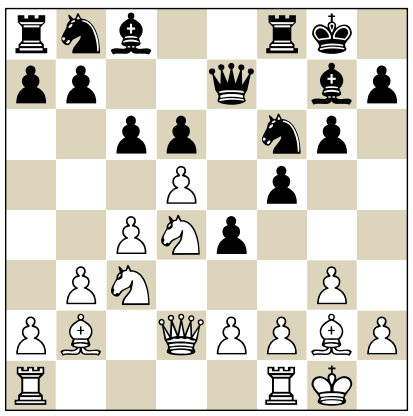
12.♘d4



12...♕e7?

Played by hand. I must say I didn't know exactly what White is aiming for; whether he wants to take on c6 or not, go for f3 or for b4-b5, and so finally I didn't even know in what direction I should be calculating.

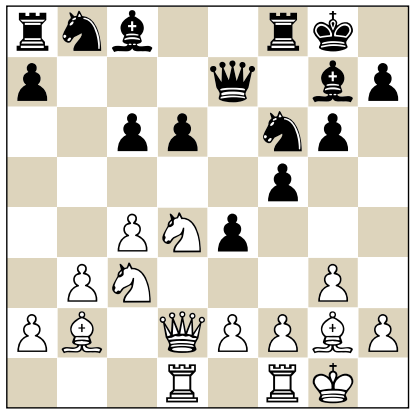
12...♖e8! has been played before, and although it didn't appeal to me optically (the rook felt very much at home on f8, if you ask me), it may well be the better move. Black's b8-knight is ready to develop, as the c6-pawn is protected by the queen, unlike in the game.



13.dxc6! I was surprised by White's concept, as I already saw the picture where I would have the strong pawn trio f5-e4-d5 killing the g2-bishop. However, Black seems to be not in time to satisfy his strategic desires.

13.♖ad1 is weaker than the text-move, as it allows Black to stabilize the situation in the centre: 13...cxd5 14.cxd5 ♘a6.

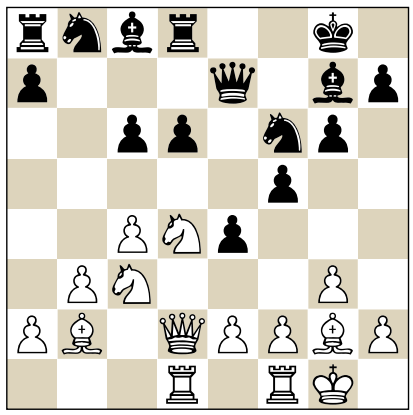
13...bxc6 14.♖ad1 A strong move. Now White is fully armed and soon ready to open up the position with f3.



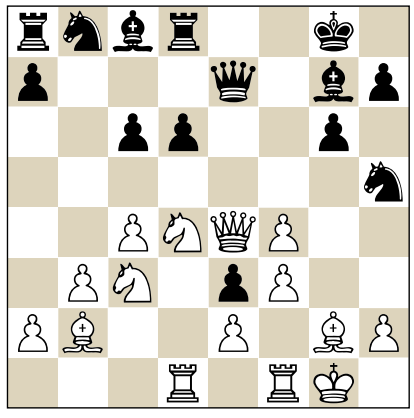
14...♖d8!?

A clever psychological decision in an already difficult position. I actually made it out of ignorance, as I wasn't really too worried, forcing myself to stay optimistic.

14...♗b7 allows White to get what he wants to get in the game: 15.♘c2! ♖d8 16.f3 (16.♗a3 ♘a6!) 16...d5, and now things are not as simple as I thought. In fact, Black wants to recapture on e4 with the knight, being just one step away from consolidation. However, White can also be clever and avoid the pin of the c3-knight (after 17.fxe4 ♘xe4!) with 17.♗a3! and only play fxe4 on the next move, and Black's position is collapsing.



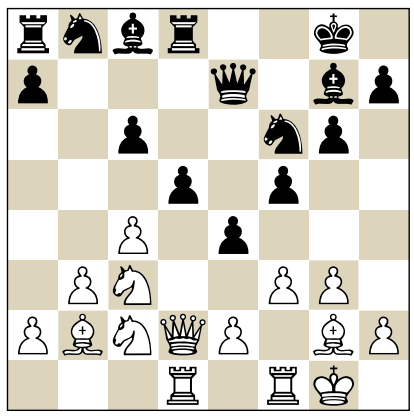
15.♘c2? Too melancholic, as Boris put it. In fact, now I am fully back in the game. Instead, White should have played much more energetically and concretely: 15.f3! and objectively speaking, Black is basically lost. Harsh reality: 15...e3 (15...d5 16.fxe4 dxe4 17.♘xf5!) 16.♕d3 f4. This is obviously what worried Boris and what was always great for Black, but now that my rook is not on f8 anymore, it is just not enough: 17.gxf4 ♘h5 18.♕e4!.



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

Now Black has many queen moves, and I was hoping that there would be at least one involving some tricks, but the cold computer parries them all. In my defence, when discussing this position after the game with Boris in the car that took us to the hotel, both of us were so tired that we couldn't calculate anything. After 18...♕h4 (after 18...♕f7 taking on e3 would give Black some practical chances, but White has an even stronger reply: 19.f5! ♖e8 20.♕h4! ♗f6 21.♕g4! ♗g7 22.f4! – impressive) 19.♘e6! is very painful.

15...d5 16.f3



16...♖d7!!

Nowadays, with engine commentary, somehow no one notices such

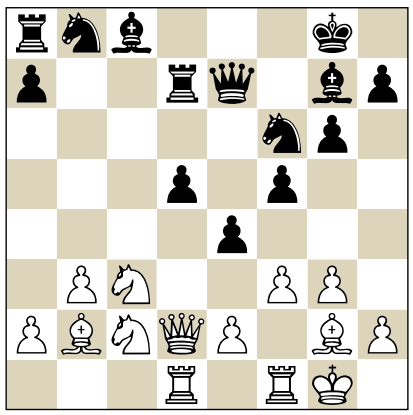
moves, as they are simply 'the first line', or, as is even more fashionable to say, 'a blue move' (referring to the ChessBomb live transmissions where a move is presented in blue if it's the computer's choice and, for instance, in red when it's a serious error – there are colours in between – ed.), but in fact I was very proud of this resource, which defends the rook in an incredibly awkward-looking way and saves my whole position from collapsing.

The point is that after any developing move, e.g. 16...♗b7, 16...♗e6 or 16...♘a6, White can simply take 17.fxe4 and Black will be forced to recapture with the f-pawn, opening the f-file, when suddenly all White's pieces are pointing at the key squares d5 and f6: 17...fxe4 18.♕g5!, and Black would be completely lost.

17.cxd5 After 17.fxe4 I can obviously recapture with the d-pawn, 17...dxe4!, and my position is solid as a rock.

17...cxd5

Now we reach an interesting strategic position. Black is full of holes when it comes to the dark squares, but once we switch the focus to the g2-bishop, which is completely buried, the position doesn't look that clear anymore. In fact, I considered that if I was in time to develop my remaining pieces, my position would simply be better. That is too much, but I shouldn't be clearly worse either, as Boris thought.



18.♘b5?!

Too pragmatic. 18.♘a4!? was a better try to disturb my development, though I am still solid after 18...♘a6!, covering the important c5-square.

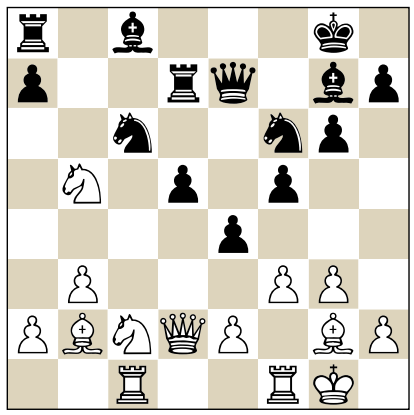
18...♘c6

Now I can develop very comfortably and I was already very happy. Not only had I survived the opening, but I also had something to be happy about: my pawn centre and the g2-bishop.

19.♖c1?

This is simply a mistake, which unfortunately went unnoticed. I was so focused on keeping the g2-bishop locked in that I didn't even consider opening it up with ...exf3.

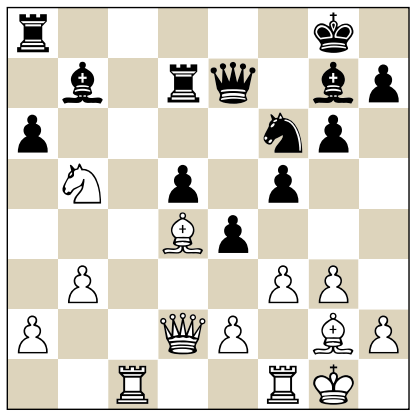
The more logical move order was 19.♘cd4 ♘xd4 20.♘xd4 ♗b7 21.♖c1.



19...♗b7? Now the game is back on its logical course.

I should have played 19...♗a6! 20.♘bd4 ♘xd4 21.♘xd4 exf3! (time to transform the advantage in the centre) 22.♗xf3 ♘e4, and Black is doing very well and stands slightly better.

20.♘cd4 ♘xd4 21.♗xd4 a6

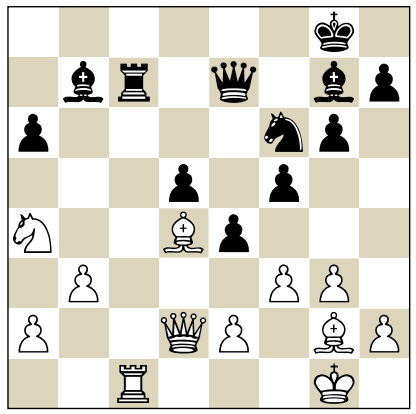


22.♘c3

For some reason I was preoccupied with the dilemma of whether to repeat moves after 22.♗c5 or not, but it turned out that Boris was still sure of his advantage.

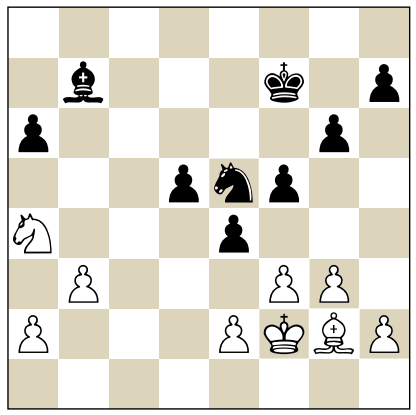
22...♖c8 23.♘a4 ♖dc7 24.♖xc7 ♖xc7 25.♖c1

It seemed to me that the game was heading towards a draw, but here, too, we both kept hoping for a positive outcome. I must add that I also started having small doubts about my position, seeing that maybe in the future we would exchange the wrong pieces and White would get the bishop to f1 and promote some b-pawn of his. Nevertheless, it seemed to me that I would be in time to exchange the right pieces as well. What Black wants is to somehow get his knight to e6, establish control of the d4-square and in the future maybe hope for some ...d5-d4 push.



25...♘e8

The computer suggests playing differently by swapping on c1 and then exchanging the dark-squared bishops and the queens: 25...♖xc1+ 26.♕xc1 ♘d7 27.♕c3 ♗xd4+ 28.♕xd4 ♕e5 29.♕xe5 ♘xe5 30.♔f2 ♔f7

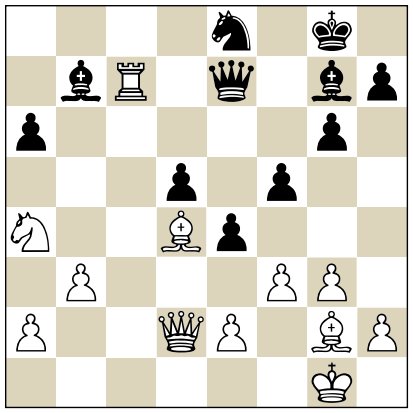


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

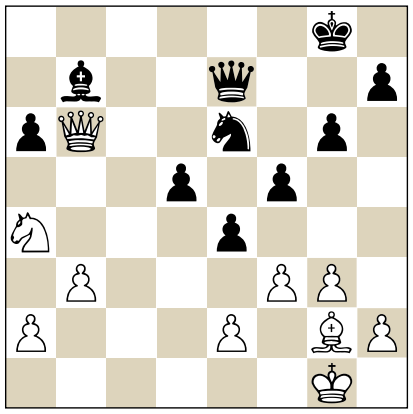
and is probably correct when it assesses the position as completely drawn. But somehow on general grounds I didn't feel comfortable exchanging the queens. Just imagine the position in which White has the

knight on c5, a pawn on b4, a pawn on e3 and the bishop on e2. Brrr.

26.♖xc7 Now fortunately I noticed a clever tactic that had been waiting for me, while I was focusing too much on the d4-square.

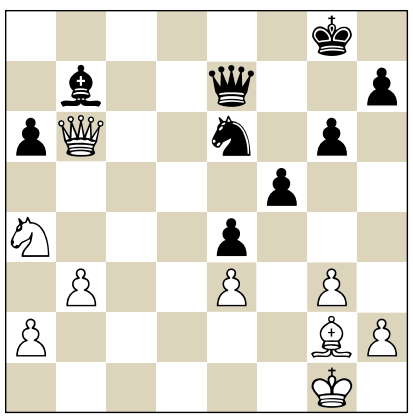


26...♗xd4+! 27.♕xd4 ♘xc7 28.♕b6 ♘e6



Here we were both happy. White has activated his queen and Black has managed to get the knight to its optimal position.

29.fxe4 dxe4 30.e3

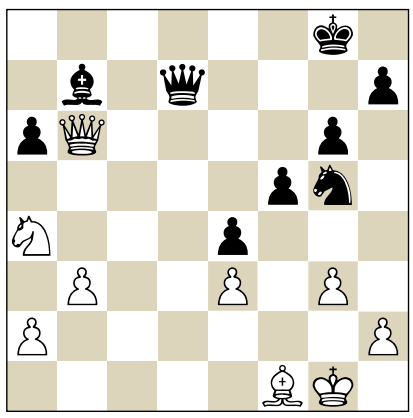


30...♕d7!

I was happy to activate my queen and the knight via g5, as it is well known that the queen plus knight duo is killing. Our calculations proved that it works and soon I saw Boris visibly unhappy.

31.♗f1 Here 31.h4!? annoyed me. I didn't see a clear way to find some tricks, as 31...g5 felt a little slow. The strongest is probably the genius 31...♗c8!, pointed out by the computer. Now my queen is free to move and the game should be drawn.

31...♘g5!



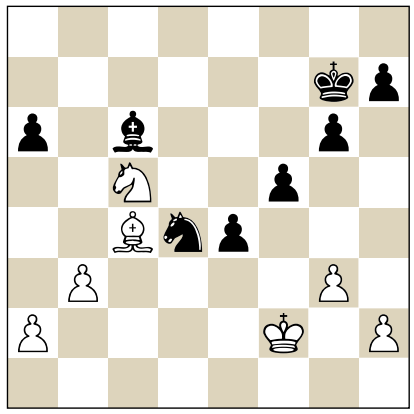
32.♗c4+ ♔g7 33.♕d4+!?

Boris was running low on time and he seemed to be very uncomfortable with my unexpected counterplay, so the decision to enter an endgame seemed logical.

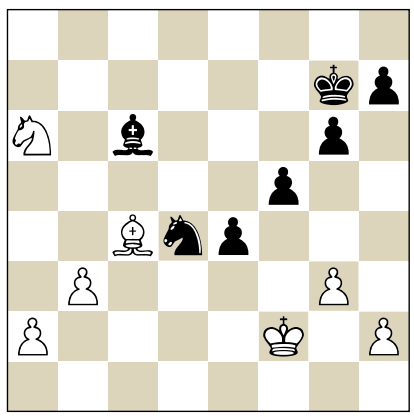
33...♕xd4 34.exd4 ♘f3+ 35.♔f2 ♘xd4 36.♘c5 ♗c6

ALEXANDER MOTYLEV

'Boris Gelfand's opening approach can be compared with that of a massive tank which is moving closer and closer.'



37.♘xa6 Instead, 37.♔e3 felt very strong, but Black has a clever resource: 37...♘c2+ 38.♔d2 ♘a3!!, stopping the pawns once and for all.



37...♔f6 And here Boris looked at the clock... which said one minute and 39 seconds. He started thinking

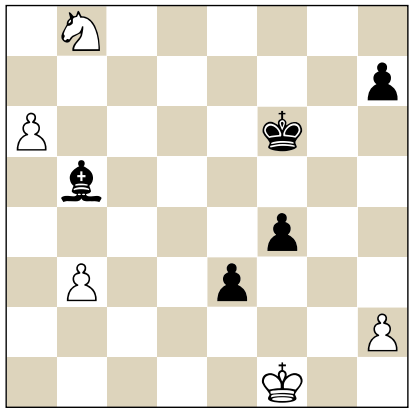
ALEXANDER MOTYLEV

In the hands of Gata Kamsky the London System is a formidable weapon.

and spent the next one minute and 39 seconds doing just that. And lost on time. A painful end of the struggle for my tired opponent.

Instead of the move I played, 37...g5 would also have led nowhere, but that was probably what my opponent had expected, because after 37...♔f6 he seemed rather confused. After 37...g5 he could have continued 38.♔e3 ♘c2+ 39.♔d2 ♘a3! 40.♘b4 ♗b7 41.♗d5!, and it should be a draw.

After 37...♔f6 I assumed that I would have a large advantage, as I saw that White has no way to stop ...g5, ...f4 (♔e3 ♔e5! is always in Black's favour). Yet it seems that White is just in time with his own counterplay. But 20 'only moves' are required: 38.♘b8 ♗e8 39.a4 g5 40.a5 f4 41.gxf4 gxf4 42.a6 e3+ 43.♔f1 ♘b5 (unfortunately, Black has his own problems to take care of) 44.♗xb5 ♗xb5+, and now the miracles are starting to happen:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

45.♔g2! ♗d3 46.♘d7+! ♔f5 47.♘c5 ♗b5 48.♔f3! ♗c6+ 49.♔e2, and again Black has no way to make progress, e.g. 49...♔e5 50.a7 ♔d4 51.♘e6+, and the result should be a draw.

■ ■ ■

By this time Sergey Karjakin was probably having a déjà vu, as he was repeating his clean 3/3 start in Stavanger. Then, in the next round, he took the doubtful decision to go for a forced draw against Alexander Grischuk. While +3 may sounds like a good score, I believe that Sergey may have felt very uncomfortable about his decision (at least I would) and by the next rest day he was back to 50%.

My fourth round was not much more fun than Sergey's, as I was paired with the unbreakable Peter Leko, and rather unfortunately with white. Peter was the only player who remained unbeaten throughout the event and I don't think this was a coincidence. Our game started off quite promisingly for me, as Peter already started thinking by move 7 in a strategic Nimzo. But he dug up a solid old plan and quickly reached a comfortable position. Since we both tried to find a way to kill the game, it was just a matter of time before the draw was agreed. Meanwhile, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov was slowly but surely working his way up by beating two Ivanchuks. First the real one, the Ukrainian legend, and then the Chinese one, Wang Hao, who reminds me and some of my fellow colleagues of the great Vassily Mikhailovich.

The next day was a rest day and for me it was one of those rest days that came and went. In the following round I had the black pieces against another struggling man, Gata Kamsky, and I was eager to come well prepared and go for another full point. It is quite amusing to see how top players suffer in the London System when playing Kamsky (later on in the tournament Karjakin also got a strategically lost position around move 10), but frankly that was what the better part of my rest day was burnt on. When I finally settled on the right move orders against all his e3's, ♘bd2's, c3's and h3's, I briefly repeated the topical ♗b5+ in the Najdorf (as well as some other stuff) and topped it with a swimming pool session. And then my first rest day was behind me.

Briefly returning to the London system (the one in which White goes d4, ♘f3, ♗f4, e3, c3, ♘bd2, h3, no matter what and no matter how), I have an important message to chess amateurs. I urge them to stop playing it against much stronger players: you spoil the statistics and mislead the professionals! How else to explain the measly 12.5% out of hundreds of games that White scores in slightly better positions with this system? Don't get me wrong though; it's nothing personal.

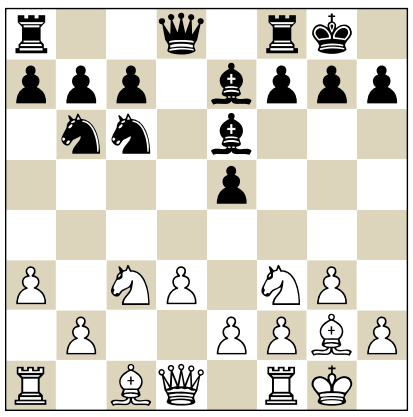
Anyhow, it was the ♗b5+ in the Najdorf that Kamsky unleashed. Here I had had a set-up in mind for a while in which Black is in time to strike in the centre. Kamsky played very ambitiously and sacrificed a pawn instead of accepting the failure of his strategy and steering the game into an equal position. I was somewhat worried about the coordination of my pieces, but after a couple of precise moves I suddenly found myself in a winning position with an extra pawn. The game eventually won itself, and with a plus score I found myself in a rather novel situation.

The fifth round saw an interesting turn of events, as Karjakin started to slow down by drawing a rather depressing game against Boris Gelfand and Grischuk managed to stop another potential leader, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, swapping the +2 and +1 scores they had before the round. The game between the two future leaders is not to be missed. Have a look at the impressive demonstration of White's key ideas in the English Opening (note the ♗h3!!-f5!-e4! manoeuvre, followed by dxe4!, and the cliché yet evergreen ♖xc6! sacrifice).

NOTES BY
Alexander Grischuk

EO 3.8 – A29
Alexander Grischuk
Shakhriyar Mamedyarov
Beijing 2013 (5)

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e5 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.♗g2 ♘b6 7.0-0 ♗e7 8.a3 0-0 9.d3 ♗e6

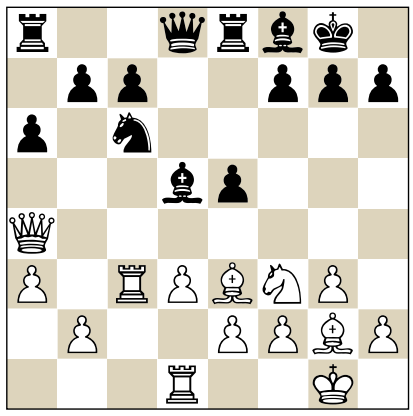


10.♗e3 This cannot be too bad, considering Vladimir Kramnik played it three times recently.

10...♘d5 11.♘xd5 ♗xd5 12.♕a4 ♖e8 13.♖ac1 a6 14.♖fd1

It would be desirable to play 14.♖c3, but this allows 14...♗f6, and after 15.♖c5 ♗e7 nothing is achieved by 16.♖xd5?! ♕xd5 17.♘d4 ♕a5 18.♗xc6 ♕xa4 19.♗xa4 exd4.

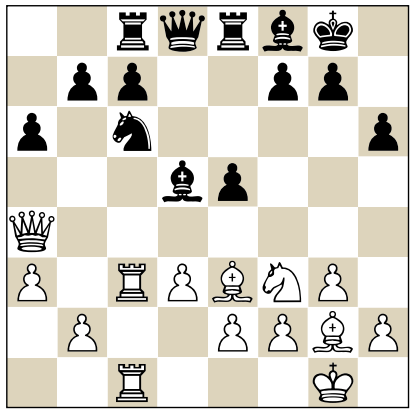
14...♗f8 15.♖c3 Principled would be 15.d4, but I was not sure about the position arising after 15...e4 16.♘e5 ♕d6 17.♘xc6 (17.♗f4 ♕e6) 17...bxc6.



15...h6 The next day Shakh claimed that here he could have drawn the game at once with 15...♗xf3, and he is pretty much correct, although after 16.exf3! (16.♗xf3 ♘d4 is the end of White's ambitions indeed) 16...♘d4 17.♗xd4 exd4 18.♖cc1 c6 19.♖e1 White is still more comfortable: 19...♕b6 20.♕c2 g6 21.f4 ♕a5 22.♖e4.

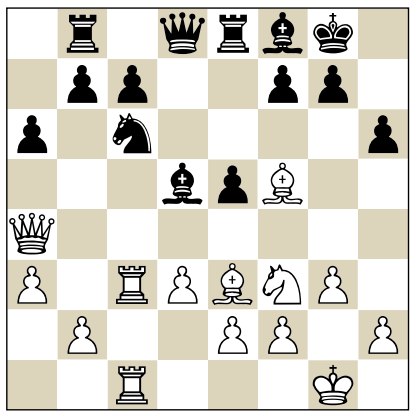
16.♖dc1 ♖c8

16...♗d6 17.♗c5, and 17...♘e7 18.e4! ♗c6 19.♕c2 is dubious for Black.



17.♗h3!? At least a bit original. White doesn't have anything real anyway.

17...♖b8 18.♗f5

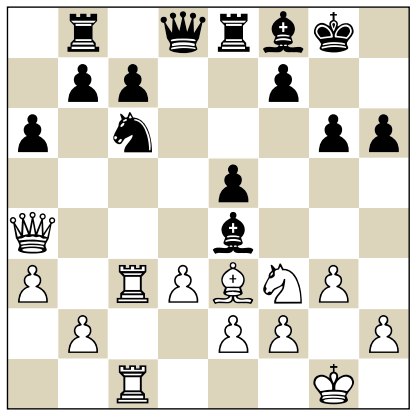


18...g6?!

Up to this point we both played very decently, but now Shakhriyar is starting to slip. He could have kept an approximate balance with 18...♗d6 19.♗e4 ♘e7.

19.♗e4 ♗xe4?

And this is a serious mistake. After the correct 19...f5 20.♗xd5+ ♕xd5 21.♕c4 ♖bd8 all I can really say is that White's position is slightly preferable.



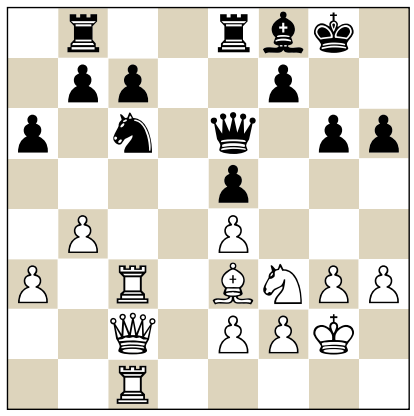
20.dxe4! But now Black's position is difficult. During the game I thought I had a huge advantage here, but the computer is less optimistic.

20...♕d7 21.♔g2 ♕e6 22.b4 ♕g4

No relief is brought by 22...♘d4 23.♗xd4 exd4 24.♖xc7 ♗d6 25.♖7c2 ♕xe4 26.♖d2 ♗e5 27.♕c2.

23.♕c2 ♕e6 24.♕a4 ♕g4 25.♕c2 ♕e6 26.h3

More practical would be 26.♕b3.

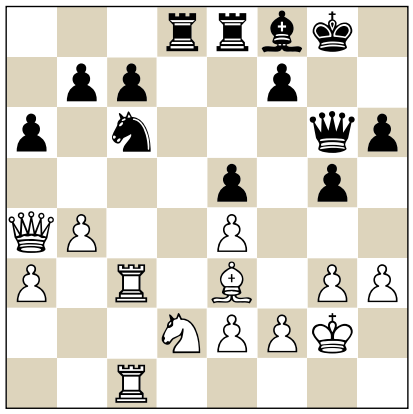


26...g5

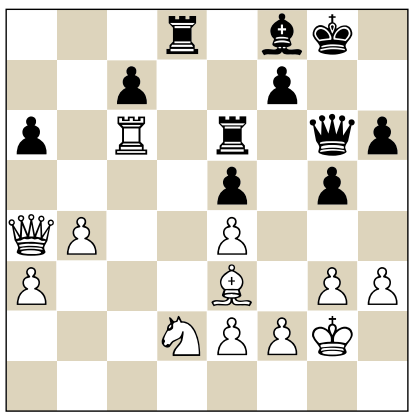
Commentators criticized this move, saying that it weakens the f5-square, but I am sure that Shakhriyar perfectly understood this. Black gets the g6-square for his queen and frees his bishop from defending the h6-pawn.

27.♕a4 ♕g6 28.♘d2 ♖bd8

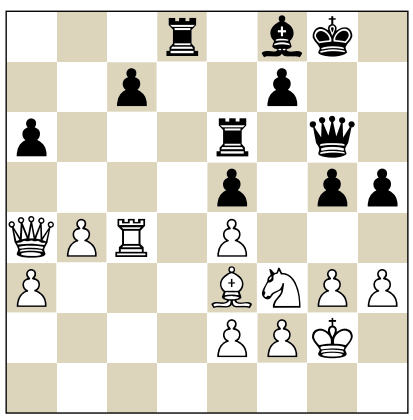
Provoking the sacrifice. More accurate was 28...♖e6, after which I was going to play 29.b5 axb5 30.♕xb5 ♖ee8 31.♖d3, maintaining the pressure.



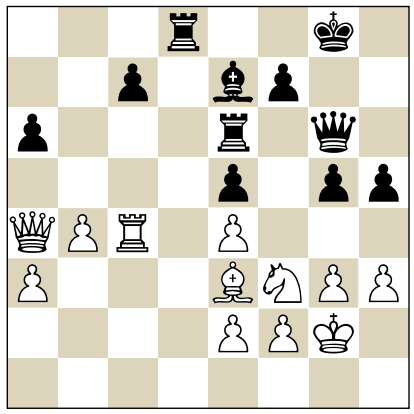
29.♖xc6!?
It was possible to play 29.b5 axb5 30.♕xb5 ♖b8 (since 30...♘d4 31.♗xd4 ♖xd4 32.♕xe8 loses a rook) 31.♖d3, transposing to 28...♖e6.
29...bxc6 30.♖xc6 ♖e6



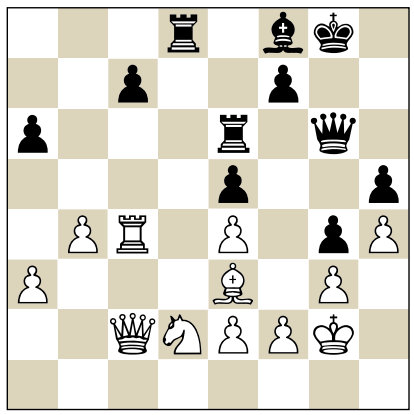
31.♖c4? An over-cautious move. Better was grabbing the pawn: 31.♖xc7, and if 31...♖xd2 32.♗xd2 ♕xe4+ then 33.♔h2 ♕xe2 34.♗e3 ♖f6 35.♕c2 ♕xc2 36.♖xc2, with a very unpleasant endgame for Black.
31...h5 32.♘f3?!
The wrong way! Although even after 32.♕c2 ♖dd6 Black is OK.



32...♗e7?! I was going to meet 32...♗h6 with 33.g4, but in fact after 33...hxg4 34.hxg4 ♗f8! 35.♕c2 ♖dd6! Black has nothing to fear.

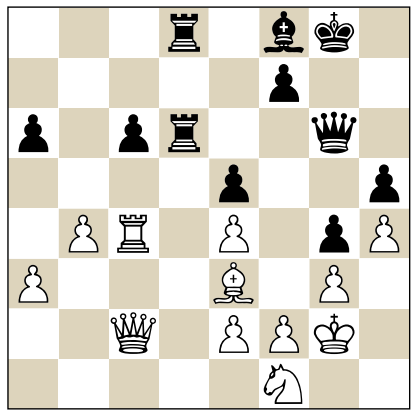


33.♘d2!!
Here I had a couple of minutes to reach move 40, but 32...♗e7 kind of shocked me. I realized that now after 33.g4 hxg4 34.hxg4 ♔g7 I would be mated soon. On the other hand Black threatens 33...g4, opening up the white king. What to do? Finally, with 32 seconds left I realized that I can simply move my knight back, at least saving myself from the mating attack.
33...g4 Best was 33...♗f8!.
34.h4 ♗f8
Shakhriyar had about 20 minutes, against my 30 seconds, and he started playing way too superficially.
After 34...♖dd6 I would have had to find 35.♕c2 ♖c6 36.♗c5! in order to keep the edge.
35.♕c2



35...c6?!
This move only weakens Black's position. Better was 35...♖dd6 or 35...♖d7. As you have probably figured out already it is very beneficial for Black to exchange a pair of rooks.

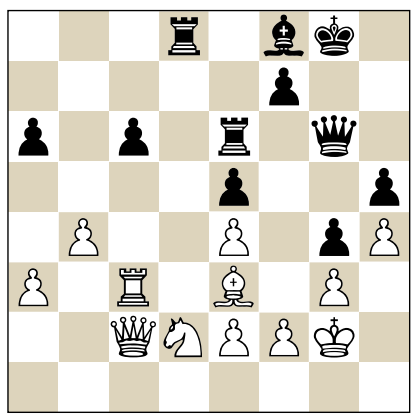
36.♘f1 Obviously a stupid move but:
A) What can you expect from a guy with 30 seconds for five moves?
B) It doesn't really spoil anything.
36...♖ed6?



37.♗g5? Again the wrong way! Attacking the rook from the other side

> 'The main lesson that can be learned from this game is simple: a rook is a rook!'

enables White to bring the knight to f5, with complete domination: 37.♗b6 ♖8d7 38.♗c5 ♖e6 39.♘e3.
37...♖8d7 38.♗e3 ♖e6 39.♖c3 ♖d8 40.♘d2



40...♗g7? The main lesson that can be learned from this game is simple: a rook is a rook! After the correct

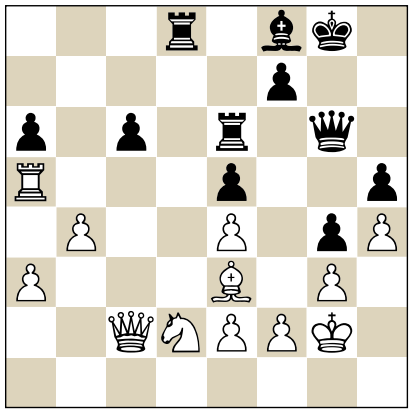
Alexander Grischuk: 'What can you expect from a guy with 30 seconds for five moves?'

ALEXANDER MOTYLEV

40...♖d7 41.♘c4 ♗g7 42.♘a5 ♗f8 it is very difficult for White to make progress, despite the fact that his position looks overwhelming.

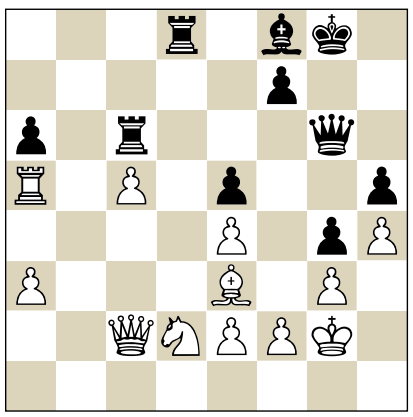
41.♖c5! But now White gets to Black's weaknesses.

41...♗f8 42.♖a5



42...c5! The best practical chance. Passive defence is hopeless: 42...♖a8 43.♘c4 ♗g7 44.♗c5 ♔h7 45.♘e3, and White is coming in from everywhere.

43.bxc5 ♖c6



44.♖a4?

I rejected the natural and correct 44.♘c4 because of 44...♖d5, but after 45.♘b2! (obviously not 45.♘b6?? ♖xb6, but 45.♔h2!! is also strong, with a little trap: 45...♗xc5 46.♕a4) 45...♖d8 46.♖a4 ♕e6 47.♘d3 White successfully regroups and is winning.

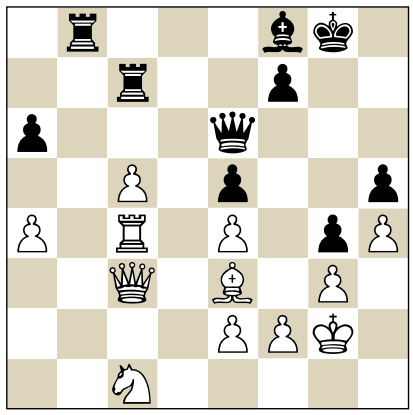
44...♕e6

Now it is difficult to win again.

45.♖c4 ♖c7 46.♘b3 ♕c6 47.a4?!

A stupid move. I should have played 47.♘c1 immediately.

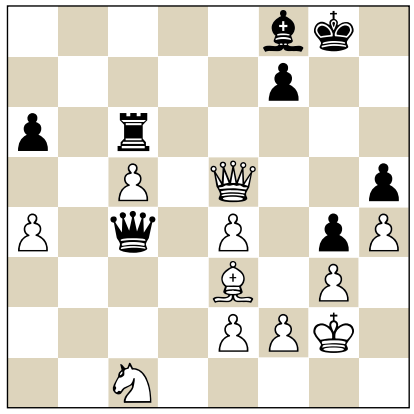
47...♖b8 48.♕c3 ♕e6 49.♘c1



49...♖b2?

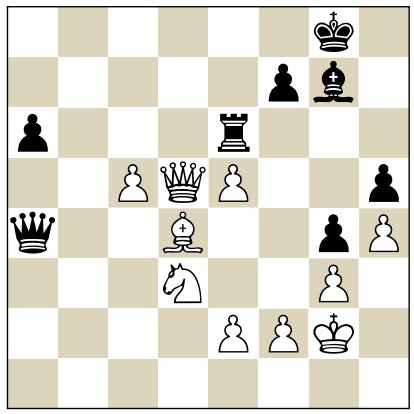
It is easy to understand that Shakhriyar didn't want to defend passively, but sometimes this is what you've got to do. After 49...♖cc8 50.♘d3 a5 I am not even sure that the 22-piece Nalimov will give a win for White – that might be a draw objectively.

50.♕xb2 ♕xc4 51.♕xe5 ♖c6



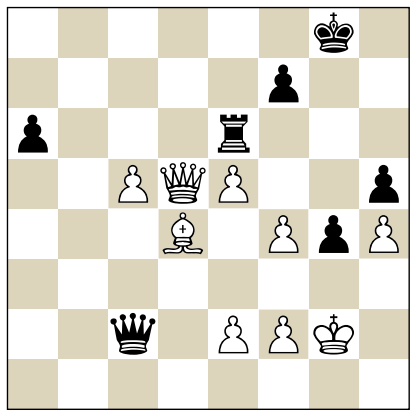
52.♕d5? We both missed the simple 52.♗d4, when Black can pretty much resign.

52...♕xa4 53.♘d3 ♖e6 54.♗d4 ♗g7 55.e5



55...♗h6?! Much more stubborn was 55...♕e8 56.♘f4 ♖h6, but White can win in many ways, e.g.: 57.♔h2 a5 58.♕e4 a4 59.♕f5 a3 60.♘xh5 ♕e6 61.♕g5 ♖g6 62.♕d8+ ♔h7 63.♘f4.

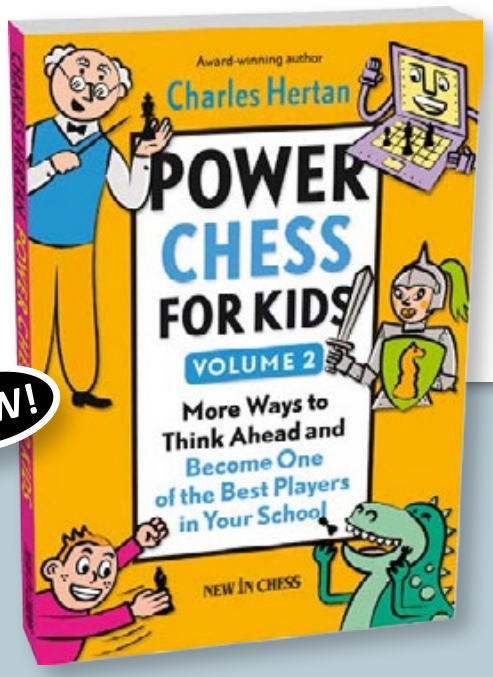
56.♘f4 ♗xf4 57.gxf4 ♕c2



58.e4! Not often does one get a chance to play 58.e4, especially when it is the only winning move!

58...♕d1 59.f5 ♖e8 60.e6 ♕f3+ 61.♔g1 Black resigned, since after 61...♖b8 62.exf7+ ♔h7 63.f8♘+! he gets mated.

■ ■ ■


Award-winning author
Charles Hertan
POWER CHESS FOR KIDS
VOLUME 2
More Ways to Think Ahead and Become One of the Best Players in Your School
NEW IN CHESS

NEW!

Volume 2 of the most complete, practical and fun kids guide ever on learning how to win games.

For kids who love to amaze their friends with their chess skills, Charles Hertan presents new ways to find Power Moves, winning tactics that require thinking ahead.

♦

"The kids I work with got a kick out of it."
Edward Scimia, About.com-CHESS

"When my youngest son saw the book, he immediately got excited. The drawings and the child-friendly lay-out had a magic impact on him."
Martin Rieger, Rochade Europa Magazine

"The organization of the book is stellar, the layout is cheerful (with cartoon-style characters) and the material is important for chess improvement."
Dr Alexey W. Root, former U.S. Women's Champion, author of 'Children and Chess'

♦

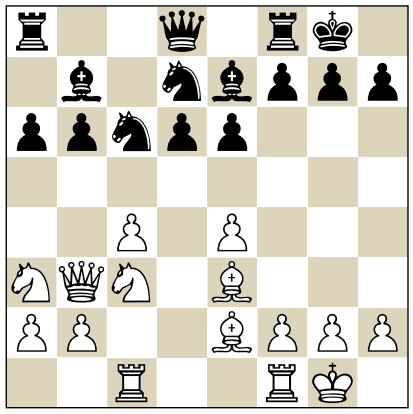
paperback • 160 pages • € 14.95
available at your local (chess)bookseller
or at www.newinchess.com

a NEW IN CHESS publication

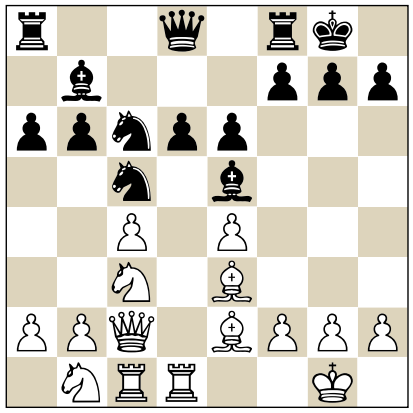
At the same time it seemed that Vassily Ivanchuk had come back to life as well (although not for long, as further on in the tournament he expressed his wish for it to be over as soon as possible). He beat the solid and experienced Chinese Wang Yue in spectacular style.

SI 39.9 – B44
Vassily Ivanchuk
Wang Yue
Beijing 2013 (5)

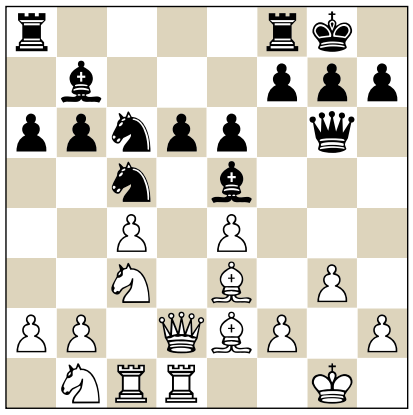
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘b5 d6 6.c4 ♘f6 7.♘1c3 a6 8.♘a3 ♗e7 9.♗e2 0-0 10.0-0 b6 11.♗e3 ♗b7 12.♕b3 ♘d7 13.♖ac1



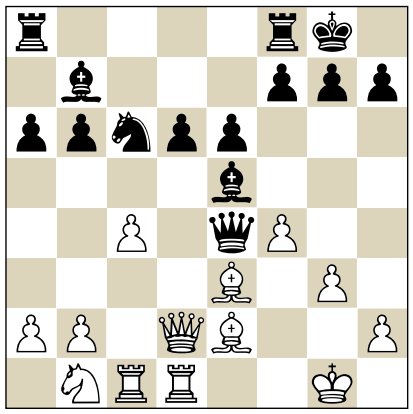
A standard hedgehog position which arises if White decides to avoid the Taimanov Variation. The knight on a3 is a bit odd at the moment, so Wang Yue decides that concrete action is justified. Vassily was of a different opinion!
13...♘c5 14.♕c2 ♗f6 15.♖fd1 ♗e5 16.♘ab1



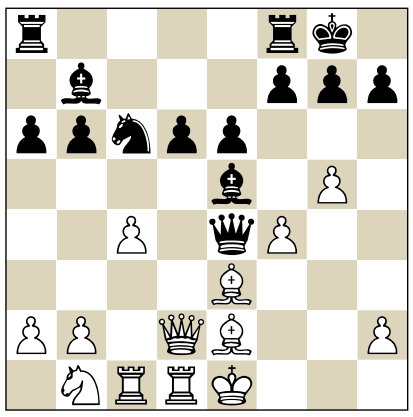
16...♕h4!? The weakening of the a8-h1 diagonal proves to be useful later on.
17.g3 ♕f6 18.♕d2 The most principled moves by both opponents. With the text-move White took the d4-square from the black bishop.
18...♕g6



19.f4 ♘xe4 Black went all in long ago, so there is no way back.
20.♘xe4 ♕xe4

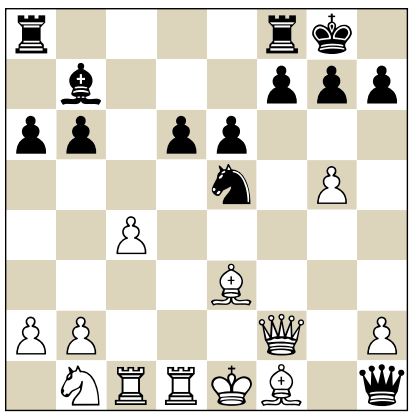


21.♔f2! I must say that while walking by the board of these two genius players I didn't see this move coming. 21.♗d3 ♕f3 22.♖f1 doesn't work. I thought because of 22...♘d4, but there is also a simpler way: 22...♕xe3+! 23.♕xe3 ♗d4 and a rook on d1 would be pretty handy here (♗xh7+!)...
21...♕f5!
Wang Yue is also finding resources.
22.g4 ♕f6 23.g5 ♕f5 24.♔e1! ♕e4!



The players keep finding the best moves.

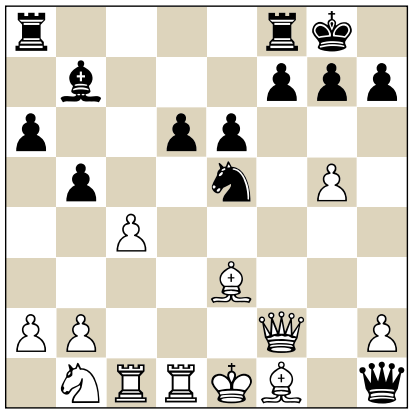
25.fxe5 ♕h1+ 26.♗f1 ♘xe5 27.♕f2 The position has calmed down a little. Black still needs to prove his compensation for the piece:



27...b5!

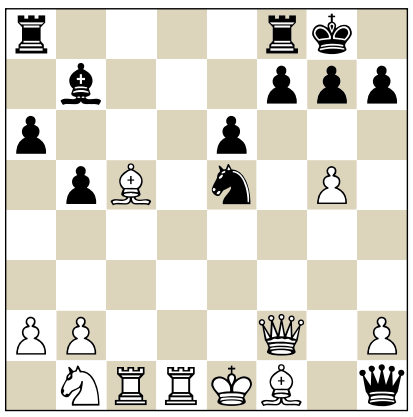
Walking by their board again, I liked 27...f5. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to lead anywhere after 28.♗xb6!.

27...f6 is somewhat more threatening, but then White has 28.g6!, the only move, but sufficient.



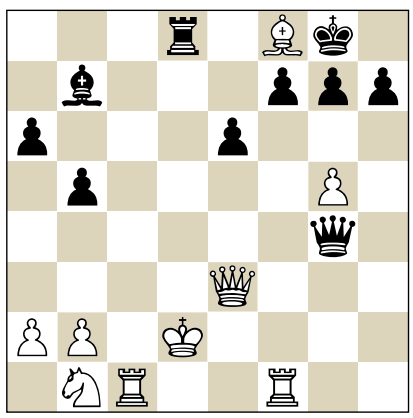
28.c5 After the incredible 28.♔d2!! Vassily would certainly have been accused of cheating. ☺

28...dxc5 29.♗xc5



29...♖fd8?

29...♘f3+! would have been a fair end to this incredible battle, but it's just way too hard to imagine that the white king won't manage to hide from merely one queen on the whole board: 30.♔e2 ♘xh2, and according to the all-knowing machine White has no way to win (although he can certainly avoid a forced draw with, say 31.♘d2!?, but the scoreboard still says 0.00): 31.♗xf8 ♕e4+ 32.♕e3 ♕g4+ 33.♔d2 ♘xf1+ 34.♖xf1 ♖d8+

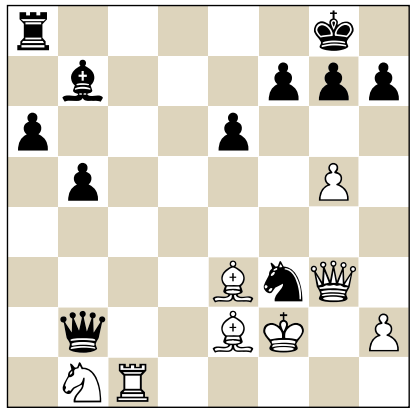


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

and hard as it is to imagine, White simply can't find shelter for his king. See for yourself: 35.♔e1 ♕h4+ 36.♖f2 ♕h1+ 37.♔e2 ♕h5+ 38.♔e1 ♕h1+ 39.♖f1 ♕h4+ 40.♕f2 ♕e4+ 41.♕e2 ♕h4+ 42.♖f2 ♕h1+ 43.♕f1 ♕e4+ 44.♖e2 ♕h4+ 45.♕f2 ♕h1+ etc.

30.♕g3! Now White miraculously consolidates and Black just has no tricks left. The realization phase was conducted perfectly by Vassily as well.

30...♖d5 31.♖xd5 ♕xd5 32.♗e3! ♘f3+ 33.♔f2 ♕xa2 34.♗e2 ♕xb2



35.♕c7 ♘d4 36.♘d2 ♖f8 37.♖b1 ♕c2 38.♕xb7 ♘xe2 39.♔xe2 ♖d8 40.♖e1 ♕d3+ 41.♔f2 a5 42.♖c1 Black resigned.

■ ■ ■

The next round I didn't feel too comfortable playing a happy Vassily, and in the end I was quite lucky to make a draw with white.

At this point it became clear that it was Mamedyarov and Grischuk who were fighting for the top spots, as Karjakin got outplayed by Mamedyarov (a game that was not free of mistakes...). Towards the end it pretty much remained a fight between Shakhriyar and Alexander, as Sergey

ALEXANDER MOTYLEV

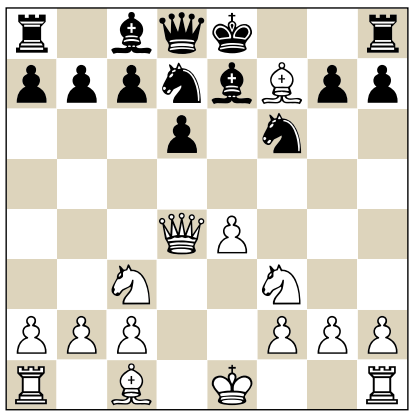
Vassily Ivanchuk came briefly back to life with a spectacular win against Wang Yue.

never seemed to have fully recovered from the unexpected turn of events after his flashy start.

Me, I got spoiled with my black wins against the outsiders and I was simply way too impertinent when playing Wang Hao. Wang Hao always confuses me, although I beat him quite nicely in Wijk aan Zee a couple of years back, in the same tournament that Magnus decided to go down in Dutch history by losing to me in little more than 20 moves. Since then Wang Hao keeps smiling at me, before, during and after the game, no matter what's going on. Perhaps I am too focused on guessing the meaning of his mysterious smile (we will never learn what is going on in those mysterious Chinese minds!), as I have already lost quite a couple of games to him. This time it was my own fault though, since I hadn't studied my friend's detailed analysis of the speculative 7.♗xf7+!? sacrifice. Still, there was no need to commit suicide, and the decision not to exchange queens while having an absolutely defenceless king will keep haunting me in nightmares to come.

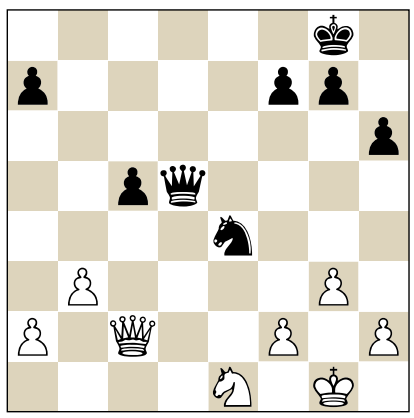
KP 4.6 – C41
Wang Hao
Anish Giri
Beijing 2013 (7)

1.d4 d6 2.e4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e5 4.♘f3 ♘bd7 5.♗c4 exd4 6.♕xd4 ♗e7 7.♗xf7+



7...♔xf7 8.♘g5+ ♔e8 9.♘e6 c5 10.♕d1 ♕b6 11.♘xg7+ ♔f7 12.♘f5 ♗f8 13.0-0 d5 14.♘xd5 ♘xd5 15.♕xd5+ ♔e8 16.♗g5 ♕g6 17.♖ad1 ♖g8 18.f4 a5 19.e5 ♕xf5 20.♕xg8 ♖a6 21.♖fe1 ♖g6 22.e6 1-0

This loss was not the only one in the mysterious Round 7, as White scored 5 wins out of 6 games. For a change, even the ultra-solid Peter Leko decided to win a game, although not without the help of his opponent, the unfortunate Sergey Karjakin, who managed to lose an absolutely dry and drawn position. In general the tournament didn't see the highest quality of chess ever, but then again, it's either many draws or lower quality, so let's not complain.

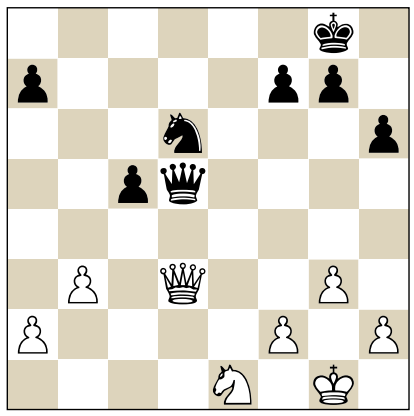


Leko-Karjakin
position after 30_♘e1

White may have had some slight pressure somewhere early on, but I am pretty sure that by now Peter already had resigned himself to his fate and was ready to shake hands at any moment.

30...♘d6 30...♘g5 is equal, and so is 30...♕d4. OK, any move is equal.

31.♕d3



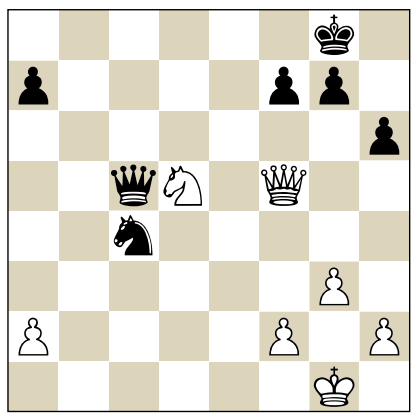
31...♕e6

In the evening, during dinner, Topalov tried to convince me that the endgame after 31...♕xd3 32.♘xd3 c4 is not so easy for Black, but I am not impressed. To my mind 33.bxc4 ♘xc4 34.♔g2 f5 is the easiest, but ...♔f8-e7 should also be fine. Once White gets too excited with his king, Black will have counterplay: 35.♔f3 ♔f7, and White doesn't even have an active king.

32.♘g2 c4 33.bxc4 ♘xc4 34.♘f4 ♕c6 Here 34...♕e1+ 35.♔g2 ♘e5 36.♕d8+ ♔h7 is a draw.

35.♘d5 ♕c5 Both 35...♔h8! and 35...♔f8! lead to a draw.

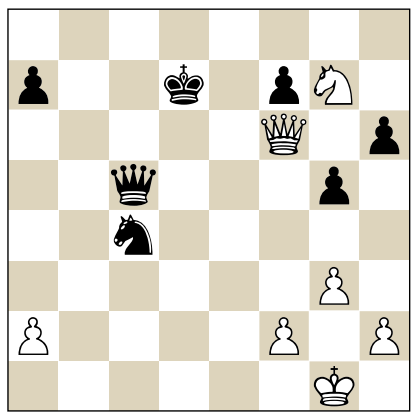
36.♕f5



36...♔f8 There still was 36...♕f8!! 37.♕d7 ♕b8!.

37.♕d7 Now White is winning. It reminded me of the game Kasimdzhanov-Adams from the London GP, where Black was also in no danger until something suddenly appeared on d7 and the queen with knight started to create some magical mating nets.

37...g5 38.♕d8+ ♔g7 39.♕f6+ ♔g8 40.♘e7+ ♔f8 41.♘f5 ♔e8 42.♘g7+ ♔d7



43.♕xf7+ And White won after 75 moves.

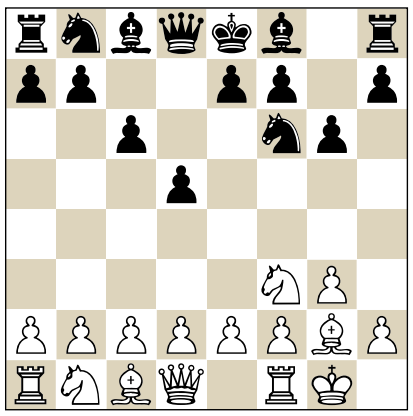
Grischuk was seriously gaining momentum and beat Wang Yue, again showing very subtle understanding of a complex middlegame position.

RE 22.6 – A07
Alexander Grischuk
Wang Yue
Beijing 2013 (7)

1.♘f3 d5 2.g3
The quiet way to develop the pieces, which is experiencing a revival these days, mainly due to the crisis that White is going through in the main lines.

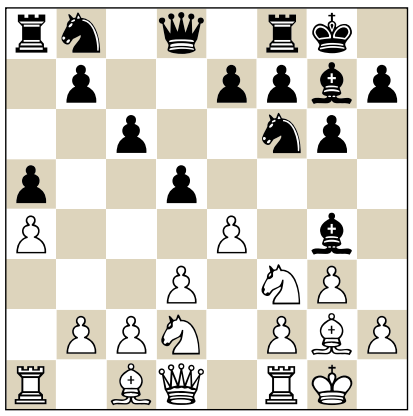
> ‘Chess understanding, in my opinion, is the quality of a chess player to correctly judge a position long before it occurs.’

2...♘f6 3.♗g2 c6?! Or 3...g6!.
4.0-0 g6 In Beijing alone, Wang Yue played quite a few games with these symmetrical lines.

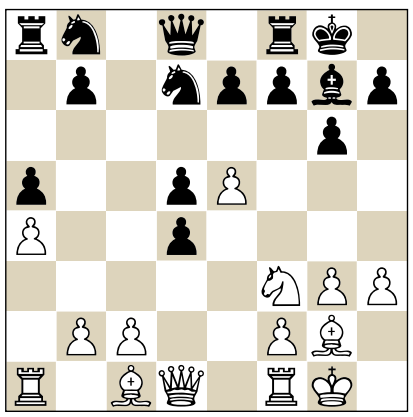


5.d3! Perhaps using the fact that the pawn is rather unnecessarily placed on c6, Grischuk shifts his plan from c4 towards e4.

5...♗g7 6.♘bd2 0-0 7.e4 a5
It is not easy for Black to develop in comfort, so he decides to gain some space on the queenside and prepare the a6-square for his knight.
8.a4 ♗g4?! A suspect move. Why? Because there must have been some mistake in this game!

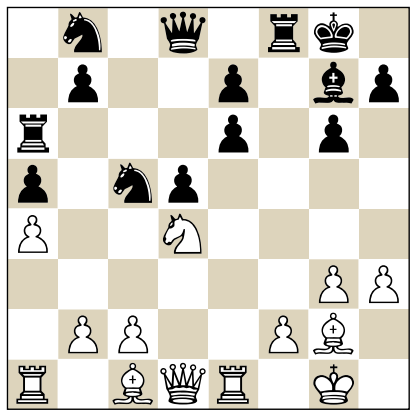


9.e5!! Chess understanding, in my opinion, is the quality of a chess player to correctly judge a position long before it occurs. I myself would think twice or thrice before going for this sequence, but Grischuk saw it all the way.
9.h3 now or later is the kind of move a primitive player like me would focus his attention on.
9...♘fd7 10.d4 c5 It felt to me that Grischuk’s concept made little sense, but as said, he saw further ahead.
11.h3 ♗xf3 12.♘xf3 cxd4

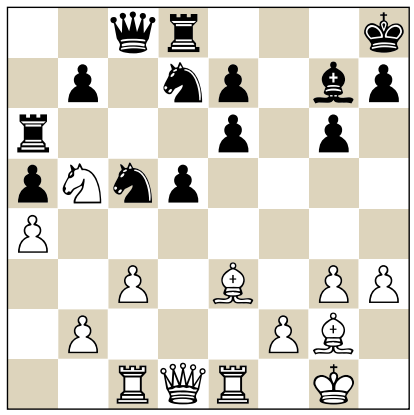


13.e6!
This is the point. Now we get to a strange position, which is far from easy to assess. I was very impressed when I saw how well Alexander had judged it. Note that Black was forced to go for 12...cxd4, as otherwise White would have a free plus after c3!.

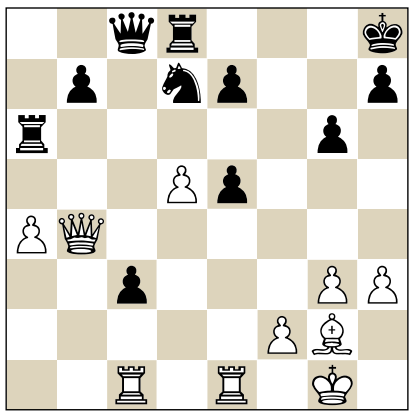
13...fxe6 14.♘xd4 ♘c5 15.♖e1 ♖a6 Everything is protected, but it turns out that Black will soon run out of useful moves.



16.c3!
Highlighting Black’s problems. White is in no hurry.
16...♘bd7 17.♗e3 ♔h8?!
I could advise Black to jump with the knight to e5, but on the other hand I don’t see exactly what would be the follow-up: 17...♘e5 18.♘b5 ♕c8 19.b3!? ♘f7!?, and perhaps try to regroup via d6-f5? Either way, even the computer slowly starts to understand the depth of Alexander’s concept.
18.♘b5 ♕c8 19.♖c1 ♖d8?!
19...♘e5! was already necessary, at least to stop c4.



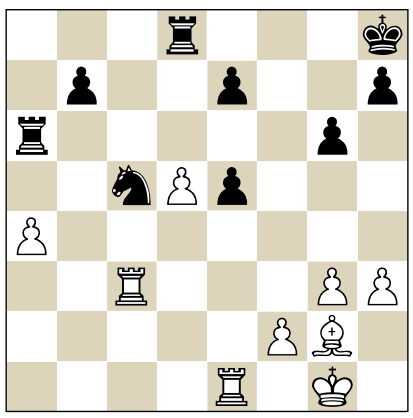
20.b4!?
There was no need, but Grischuk decided that it was time to open the position. Rightly so.
20...♘e4 21.c4! axb4 22.cxd5 ♘c3 23.♘xc3 bxc3 24.♗d4!
And it becomes clear that after absolutely genius play White has achieved a clear advantage. The c3-pawn falls.
24...♗xd4 25.♕xd4+ e5 26.♕b4



26...♕c5

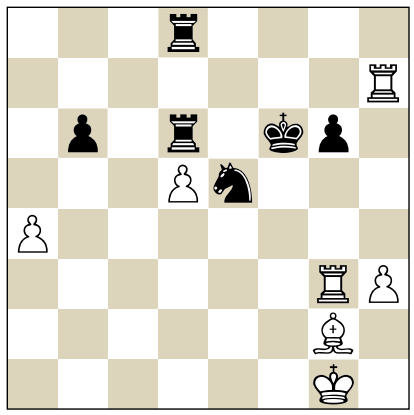
Wang Yue is a very resourceful defender and the position can be given the good old assessment ±, yet the drawing tendencies are pretty high. All the black pawns are weak, but there are some contours of a dark-square blockade.

27.♕xc5 ♘xc5 28.♖xc3



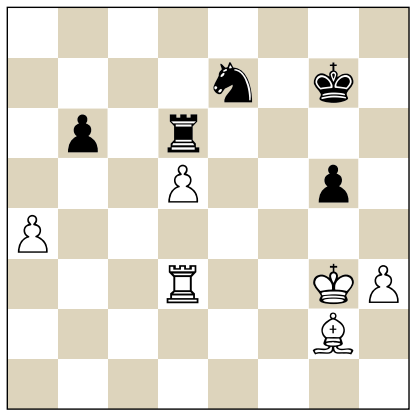
At this point, a rather dull technical phase starts. White wants to win some pawns somewhere and Black wants to limit the damage to a minimum and establish a fortress.

28...♘d7 29.♖e4 ♖d6 30.♖c7 b6 31.♖e1 ♔g7 32.f4 exf4 33.♖xe7+ ♔f6 34.♖xh7 fxg3 35.♖c3 ♘e5 36.♖xg3



As expected, White has managed to win a pawn, but then again, the blockade is there as well. Grischuk managed to hold a similar position against Vladimir Kramnik once in Kazan, so I was curious how he would handle such a situation from the other side.

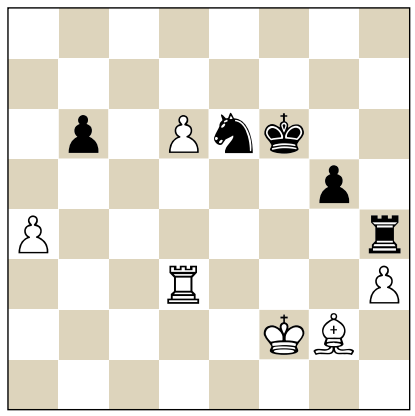
36...♖c8 37.♖h4 ♖c4 38.♖xc4 ♘xc4 39.♔f2 g5 40.♖g4 ♘e5 41.♖d4 ♘g6 42.♔g3 ♔e5 43.♖g4 ♔f6 44.♖c4 ♘e7 45.♖c3 ♔g7 46.♖d3



46...♖h6

Black couldn't afford to stay put, as the g5-pawn was getting too vulnerable.

47.♔g4 ♔f6 48.d6 ♖h4+ 49.♔g3 ♘f5+ 50.♔f3 ♘d4+ 51.♔f2 ♘e6



52.d7?

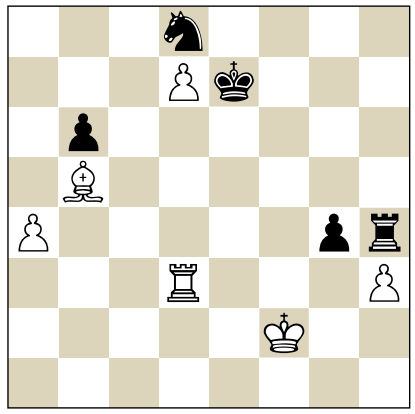
The computer spots some inaccuracies around this point.

52.♗c6 g4 53.hxg4 ♖xg4 54.d7 is similar to the game.

52...♔e7?

Correct was 52...♘d8!, and White has no time to get the bishop to b5. Suddenly it's an easy draw.

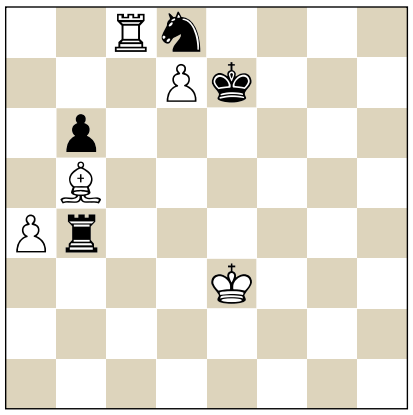
53.♗c6 ♘d8 54.♗b5 g4



Now the game is back on its logical course.

55.hxg4 ♖xg4 56.♖h3 ♔d6 57.♖c3 ♖b4 58.♔e3 ♔e7 59.♖c8

IT'S FINALLY HERE...
MULTIPLE LANGUAGES! | PRIVATE LESSONS | TRACK YOUR PROGRESS! | INTERACT WITH YOUR COACH!
ALL LEVELS! | EXERCISES & QUIZZES | TOURNAMENT REPORTING | INSTANT ACCESS
WWW.MCHESSAPP.COM
THE ONLY CHESS INSTRUCTION YOU'LL EVER NEED
Available on the Android Market
Available on the App Store



59...♖xb5?

I haven't analysed the position myself, but from the words of my colleagues I gathered that it's a draw if Black just conducts a basic defence.

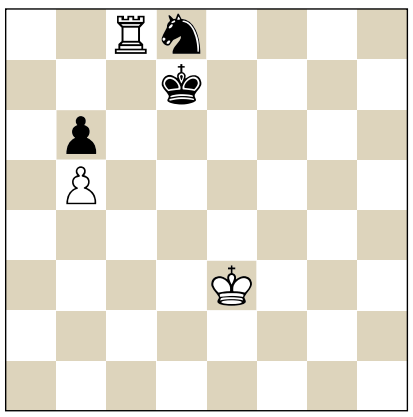
After 59...♖h4 60.♖b8 ♖h6, on the one hand I can't say that it's a 'dead draw', as the pawn is just one step too far from promotion, but on the other hand I don't even see a single try. The b5-square is permanently occupied by the bishop and if White tries to get his rook to e8, the black king will similarly adjust to c7.

Incidentally, the first line was 59...♖b1!?, so it seemed like a brilliant manoeuvre. Funny that some commentators didn't notice the much simpler path for the rook, h4-h6: 60.♖b8 ♖e1+! 61.♔d4 ♖e6.

60.axb5

In this position Wang Yue was hoping to get the knight to d6, but even if he manages that, the position can eventually be broken. Zugzwang 4ever.

60...♔xd7



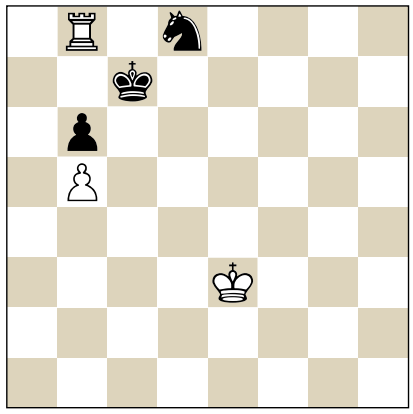
61.♖b8!

61.♖a8 gives Black what he wants, but it's still lost: 61...♘f7! 62.♖a3 ♘d6 63.♖b3 ♔e7 64.♔d4 ♔e6 65.♔c3! ♔d7 66.♔b4, and White can slowly regroup.

61...♔c7

ALEXANDER MOTYLEV

Wang Yue: On the receiving end of another brilliancy.



62.♖a8! A very nice finesse.

62...♘e6 63.♔e4

The rest is easy.

63...♔d6 64.♖c8 ♘c5+ 65.♔d4 ♘b3+ 66.♔c3 ♘a5 67.♖h8 ♔c5 68.♖h5+ ♔d6 69.♖g5 ♔c7 70.♔d4 ♘b3+ 71.♔d5 ♘a5 72.♖g7+ ♔c8 73.♔d6 ♔b8 74.♖c7 ♔a8 75.♖c8+ ♔b7 76.♔d7 ♔a7 77.♔c7 Black resigned.

■ ■ ■

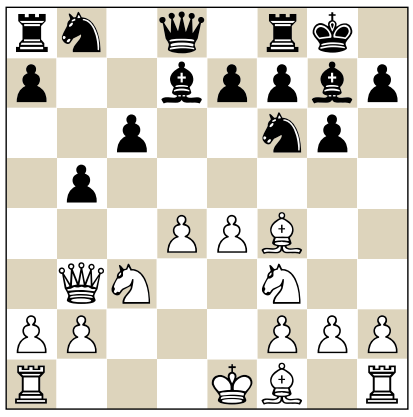
Grischuk's next opponent was me. Being White, I had no reason to shy away from a fight. We ended up in a position in which neither of us knew what was really going on. I had studied this system in some detail, but a little too long ago to remember everything, while Alexander hadn't studied it at all. The only difference was that I had an extra hour on the clock and it was only the memory of the legendary time-trouble feats of my opponent that kept me from thinking that I had already won the game. It was clearly not my day, as I missed an excellent opportunity to punish Black for his careless decision to fianchetto his f8-bishop a little too early in the Scheveningen. I only had to see three moves beyond the exchange sacrifice that I pretty quickly rejected. After that, it was my opponent who missed an opportunity, although a very surprising one, so one way or the other, the draw was a logical result.

The ensuing rest day I used well, feeling intuitively that I might be tested in some forcing line in the Grünfeld by another ambitious player, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, for whom this game was of serious importance. I surprised my lazy self by studying the many Grünfeld files that I have, even though I am under the illusion I can remember them even when woken up at three in the morning (Beijing time, as well as Dutch time). Nevertheless, I stopped in my database at a file called 'Grünfeld ♕a4 + ♕b3' and went to rest. When I returned to my

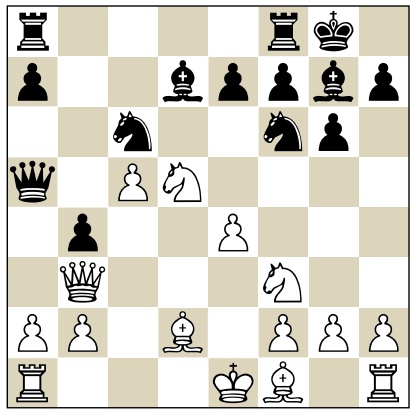
room after a shocking loss I realized that quite ironically it was exactly that one sideline that Shakhriyar played.

GI 7.4 – D90
Shakhriyar Mamedyarov
Anish Giri
Beijing 2013 (9)

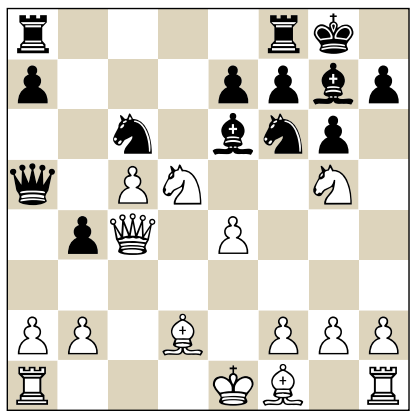
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♕a4+ ♗d7 6.♕b3 dxc4 7.♕xc4 0-0 8.♗f4 c6 9.e4 b5 10.♕b3



10...c5! A strong novelty, closing the variation once and for all. A year ago, when preparing for the Dutch Championship, I spent quite some time on this line, as Ivan Sokolov (amongst many others) had just adopted this curious variation. Together with two of my friends, I spent a couple of days on it and couldn't find a clear-cut solution. Once I got back home, though, I suddenly asked myself what happens if I follow the most brutal way.
11.dxc5 ♕a5! 12.♗d2 b4 13.♘d5 ♘c6! Only here my opponent was out of book. He also realized that it's not the ± that the computer is so confidently claiming.

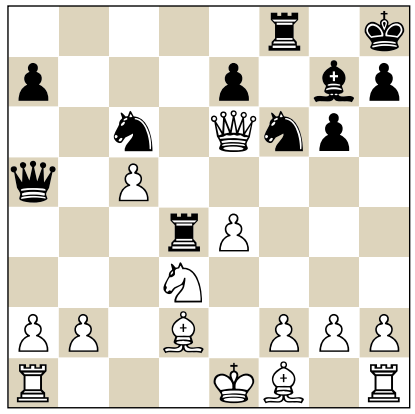


14.♗d3
'Obviously'... But unfortunately for me, the engine suggests 14.♕c4 as its main option. I doubt Shakhriyar even considered this move.
After 14.♕c4 the only way for Black is the absolutely brilliant 14...♗e6! 15.♘g5



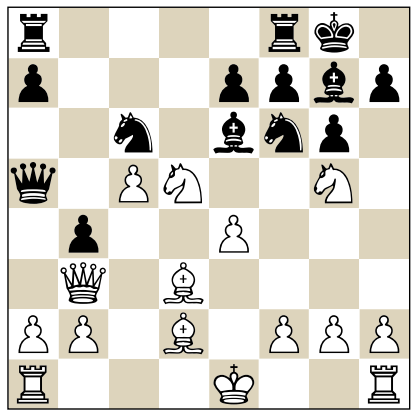
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

15...♖ad8!!. Even the strongest engines need time to find this resource. This idea was etched in my memory, even though I hadn't repeated the line since the moment I found it: 16.♘xe6 fxe6 17.♘xb4. Contrary to what we will see further on, this indeed fails to work for White here: 17...♖d4 (17...♘e5 is also good) 18.♕xe6+ ♔h8 19.♘d3



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

19...♘b4!!.
14...♗e6 Now in my analysis I only considered the natural 15.0-0, as other moves aren't even good enough to fully equalize. I was, however, convinced that I had checked ♘g5 in exactly this position.
15.♘g5?!
After 15.0-0 ♖fd8 16.♗c4! (White is in trouble after 16.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 17.♕c2 ♗xb2! 18.♕xb2 ♖xd3) 16...♘xe4 17.♘xe7+ ♘xe7 18.♗xb4 ♗xc4 19.♕xc4 ♕a4 leads to a draw, e.g. 20.♕xe4 ♘c6 21.♖ae1 ♘xb4 22.a3 ♖ab8 23.axb4 ♕xb4 24.♕xb4 ♖xb4 25.♖a1, etc.



15...♖ad8??

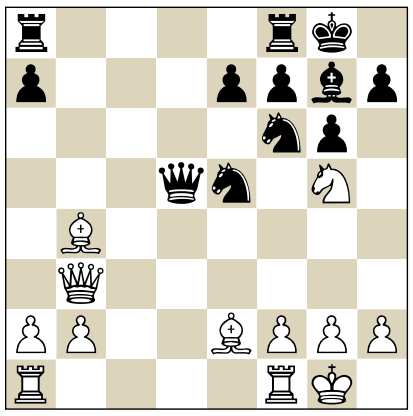
What do *you* think about New In Chess?

At New In Chess we are always thinking how we can improve our magazine. But it's ***your*** magazine too! So please let us know what ***you*** think! **Fill out our readers' poll** (it takes only 8 minutes) and win one of the following prizes:

- a blitz match with New In Chess contributing editor **Anish Giri**
- 3 vouchers for 100 euro worth of New In Chess books
- 50 cool New In Chess pens

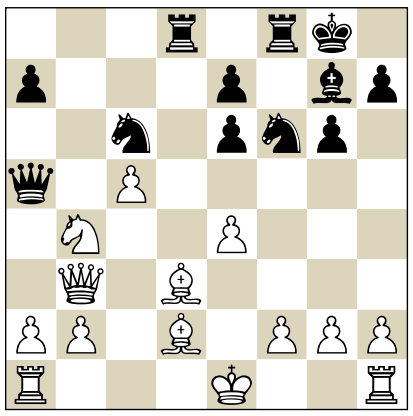
please go to www.newinchess.com/readers.poll

This move is obviously insane, as White is even better if he just takes on f6 and on e6. However, I remembered the resource ...♗xb2 (which in its turn was an important resource in another subline ☺). Tragicomedy.
Instead, 15...♗xd5 16.exd5 ♘e5 looked too natural, so I wondered why I hadn't analysed it. But then I told myself that I shouldn't be so rude as to doubt my Houdini: 17.♗e2 ♕xc5 18.♗xb4 ♕xd5 19.0-0.



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

This is a draw, according to Shakhriyar, but it's still a long way to go for White, who is completely uncoordinated: 19...♖ab8 20.♕xd5 ♘xd5 21.♗a3 ♘f4, etc.
16.♘xe6 fxe6 17.♘xb4



Now I used more than one hour, but I still couldn't understand what had happened. The rest doesn't require any comment; White is just winning.
17...♘d4 18.♕c4 ♘d7 19.♘c6 ♕xc5 20.♘xd8 ♘e5 21.♘xe6 ♕d6 22.♘xd4+ ♘xc4 23.♗xc4+ ♔h8 24.♘e6 ♖c8 25.♗d5 ♗xb2 26.♖b1 ♖c2 27.♖xb2 ♖xb2 28.♗c3+ ♔g8 Black resigned.

■ ■ ■

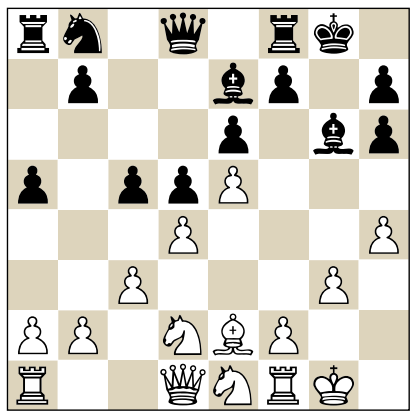
With this win Shakhriyar took the lead and he simply didn't let it go, even though his finish was far from impressive (-1 in the remaining two games), but the same went for the finale of Grischuk's tournament.

As I finished two hours quicker than usual, the game against Shakhriyar upset my tournament routine. As always in China, I could not reach my friends and supporters in the other hemisphere due to different time zones. What's more, the Internet connection was too slow to watch a movie or even stream a song. One shouldn't even think of watching some funny (or stupid) YouTube clip, as YouTube was blocked, and neither could you browse through the pictures of the new-born child of the half-sister of your friend's girlfriend's uncle on Facebook, as Facebook was blocked as well. Eventually I decided to check what movies I still had on my laptop. To my surprise I discovered that I hadn't seen all of them yet as there was a folder saying 'The Terminator 1,2,3 & 4' and I have only seen the first two. My next game and a very important victory was fully inspired by the third Terminator movie (for those with memory issues like me, that's the one with the evil Terminator-girl). There was a memorable episode that I recalled during the game and that still keeps me happy till this very day. The leader of the future human army, John Connor, is fed up with all this 'destiny' and 'future' nonsense. He turns to the Terminator (who is on his side this time) and in panic threatens to kill himself. The cold Terminator with his lovely German accent replies 'You cannot self-terminate' and the furious John shouts 'No, YOU can't. I can do anything I want. I'm a human being, not some god-damn robot.' John didn't do it, but Topalov did. A human being!

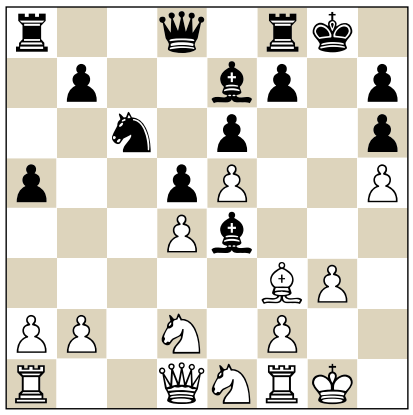
'Neither could you browse through the pictures of the new-born child of the half-sister of your friend's girlfriend's uncle on Facebook, as Facebook was blocked as well.'

CK 4.8 – B12
Anish Giri
Veselin Topalov
Beijing 2013 (10)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.♘f3 e6 5.♗e2 ♗g6 6.0-0 ♘h6 7.c3 ♗e7 8.♗xh6 gxh6 9.g3 0-0 10.♘bd2 a5 11.♘e1
I wasn't sure how to proceed here, as my initial plan of ♖e1, ♘f1-e3-g2-f4 appeared way too slow. Finally I decided to force matters by chasing Black's bishop.
11...c5 12.h4



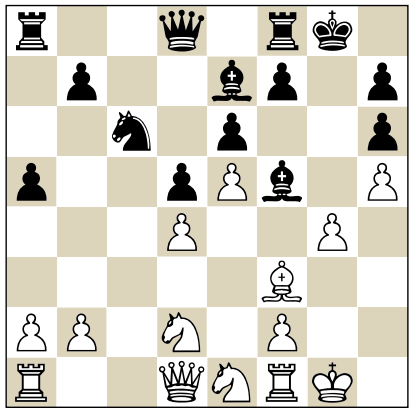
My opponent called this a waste of time, but I am always ready to invest when it comes to chasing pieces.
12...cxd4 13.h5 ♗e4 14.cxd4 ♘c6 15.♗f3



15...♗f5 At first I thought my opponent was ready to spend two tempi to provoke g4, but this version seemed way too far-fetched.

15...♗xf3 16.♘dxf3 leads to a very strange position, where in my opinion chances are equal. Black should aim for ...f6 and the right move-order seems to be 16...♕b6! 17.♖b1 f6 18.exf6 ♗xf6 19.♘c2, and it should just be equal.

16.g4



16...♘xd4?? At first I couldn't exactly explain what was happening, but later, while discussing the game with my opponent, I slowly came to the realization that he had never seen me win a game before (my score against Topalov is a disaster and whenever we met in the Grand Prix I never won a game). So he probably didn't even consider it possible that he could lose to me. Fair enough, but miracles do happen.

Instead of the text, 16...♗e4 17.♘xe4 dxe4 18.♗xe4 ♕xd4 felt quite equal to me as well.

17.gxf5 ♔h8 18.f6

Now, as they sometimes say, White is a piece up with a better position.

ANASTASIYA KARLOVICH

Anish Giri keeps wondering what's behind Wang Hao's mysterious smile.

18...♗b4 19.♗g2 ♖g8 20.♘df3 ♘c6 21.♘d3 ♕b6 22.♔h1 ♗c5 23.♕c1 Black resigned.

■ ■ ■

That day the tournament saw a scenario that we've become used to these days, when both leaders lost (Mamedyarov to Morozevich) and the situation at the top didn't change. Mamedyarov was still half a point ahead. By now Topalov's qualification, which seemed to be a dead-certainty before the tournament, looked in danger and nothing seemed certain anymore.

In the last round I very much wanted to reach a plus-score, but it was a hard task, knowing that Wang Yue would put the bishop on g2 no matter what and would probably not mind splitting the point and going for a 50 per cent result. I tried to play the most aggressive system of the ones I consider sound against the g3 variation. We followed an old game of Kasparov's and crazy things seemed to be happening, with my knight heading towards c2 and feeling very much like a boss there. Wang Yue followed the main line (probably unawares, as he spent one hour) and we reached an endgame that I had deeply analysed, where Black is a pawn down but has dominating pieces. However, the drawing tendencies were too high and even though I won the pawn back under extremely favourable circumstances, it wasn't enough to break Wang's defences.

Mamedyarov had no difficulty achieving the draw against Gelfand, who deviated from my game by playing a dull alternative to reach a pretty symmetrical endgame. This made Mamedyarov the deserved winner of the Beijing Grand Prix. A fine example of his play in China is the following win against Ivanchuk.

CA 3.1 – E02
Vassily Ivanchuk
Shakhriyar Mamedyarov
Beijing 2013 (3)

Having taken a second look at the games of the winner, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, I suddenly came to the realization that in Beijing he simply was the chosen one.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.♕a4+ ♘c6?!

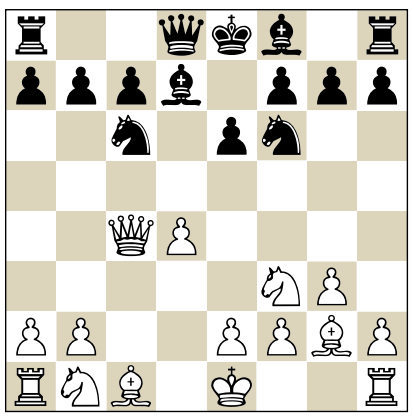
Shakhriyar occasionally has spectacular and dangerous opening ideas, but mostly it's his imaginative talent that ensures his success.

6.♗g2!? Vassily Mikhailovich very correctly guessed that the ...♘c6 Catalan isn't Shakhriyar's specialty. I would never have thought of that, since if you

don't want to transpose to the ...♘c6 Catalan, why would you put your knight there at all? But then again ,it's a kind of poker game and there I would trust Ivanchuk more than myself.

6...♗d7?! Giving up the c4-pawn without any fight and thus voluntarily entering a worse position. The correct move, 6...♗b4+, however, requires good knowledge of the system.

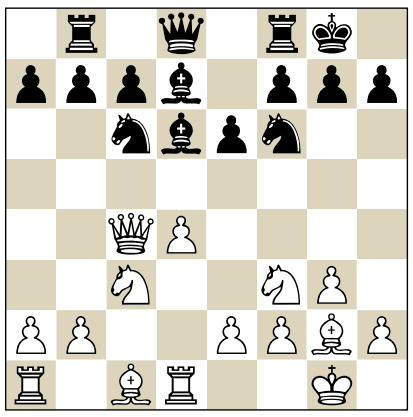
7.♕xc4



7...♗d6? This set-up is possible in the Catalan, but in this particular version it is just too slow.

The only way to justify Black's system is 7...♘a5. It was played in the Kramnik-Topalov match, but never got popular and for a good reason: 8.♕d3 c5 9.0-0 ♗c6 10.♘c3 cxd4 11.♘xd4 ♗c5 12.♖d1 ♗xg2 13.♕b5+!, with a clear advantage for White in Kramnik-Topalov, Elista 2006.

8.♘c3 0-0 9.0-0 ♖b8 10.♖d1



10...h6 If Black doesn't challenge White's centre and makes a move like this, that's a bad sign. He is not in a position to think of prophylaxis.

On the other hand, 10...e5 is pretty bad, and Black's position therefore is simply bad.

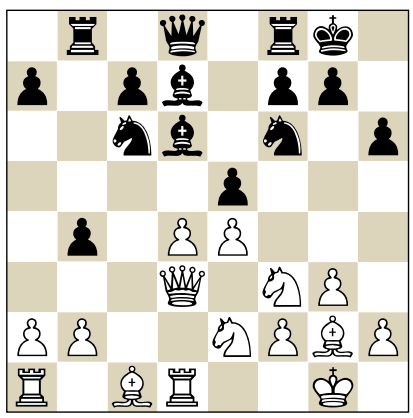
After 10...e5 11.dxe5 ♘xe5 12.♘xe5 ♗xe5 13.♗g5 White has a clear advantage and even some concrete threats connected with the pin on the d-file.

11.e4 b5!

Black is already in desperado mode.

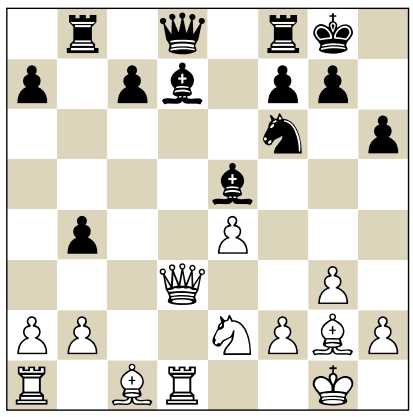
12.♕d3 b4 13.♘e2 e5

Now White has a serious choice. His position is better and more pleasant, but Ivanchuk understandably already wanted to clinch this game.



14.dxe5?! After 14.♗e3! it's a very clear and sweet ±.

14...♘xe5 15.♘xe5 ♗xe5

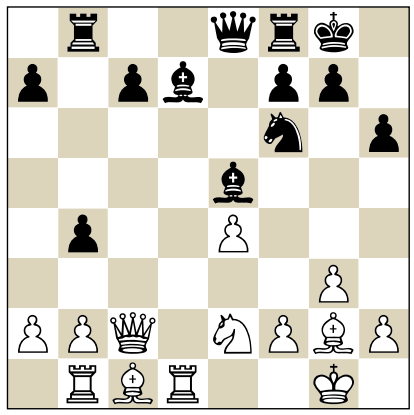


16.♕c2! After 16.♗f4!? ♕e7! Black will hang on. In fact, he isn't doing that badly, as ...c5 and ...♗b5 are coming. After 16.f4?! ♗a4! (16...♗d6 17.e5 ♗c5+ 18.♗e3 is lost for Black) may be missed: 17.♕xd8 ♖fxd8 18.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 19.fxe5 ♖d1+ 20.♗f1 ♘xe4, and Black is doing great. White has no time to unpin both his f1-bishop and his c1-bishop: 21.b3 ♗b5 22.♔g2 ♘d2.

16...♕e8!

An excellent square for the queen. 16...♕e7 is too primitive: 17.♗e3!.

17.♖b1



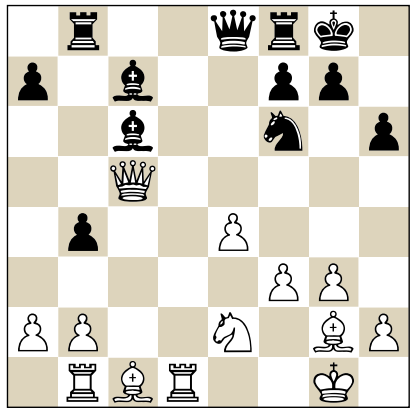
17...c5!? Shakhriyar in his element, a fusion of positional understanding and powerful imagination.

18.♕xc5

18.f4 ♗c7 19.e5 looks critical, but here Shakhriyar saw a unique resource: 19...g6!, and Black will suddenly get very active.

18...♗c6 19.f3 ♗c7

Maybe not entirely correct, but basically Black had no choice after his disastrous opening.



20.♕f2

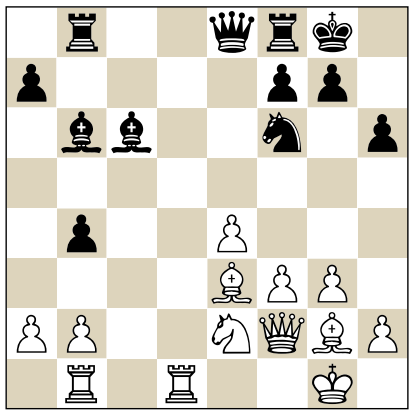
Very logical; forcing Black to sacrifice three pieces for the queen.

After 20.♗e3 Black is able to save himself with a series of only moves: 20...♗b6 21.♕c1 ♖c8! 22.♕d2 ♖d8 23.♘d4 ♗xe4! (all forced) 24.fxe4 ♘g4 25.♔h1 ♘xe3 26.♕xe3 ♕d7!, and Black escapes, since there is no way to exploit the future pin: 27.♖d3 ♗xd4 28.♕d2 ♗e3! 29.♖xd7 ♗xd2 30.♖xa7, with a pretty easy draw for Black, I suspect.

20.♘d4?!, on the other hand, is playing with fire: 20...♗b6 21.♕c2? (21.♕f5 is the way, but it doesn't feel safe at all) 21...♖d8 22.♗e3 ♗xe4!, and White is a tempo down compared

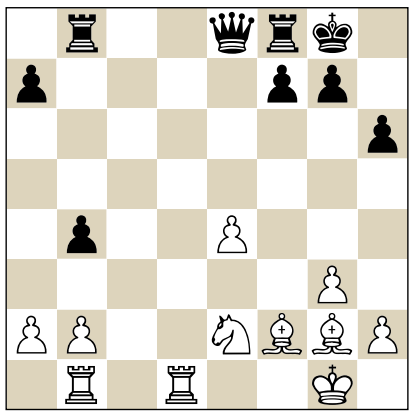
to the line after 20.♗e3 and can't even hold the balance here.

20...♗b6 21.♗e3



21...♗xe4! 22.fxe4 ♘g4 23.♗xb6 ♘xf2 24.♗xf2

To be honest, I thought this position to be a technical win for White, but it turns out to be not as trivial as I thought.

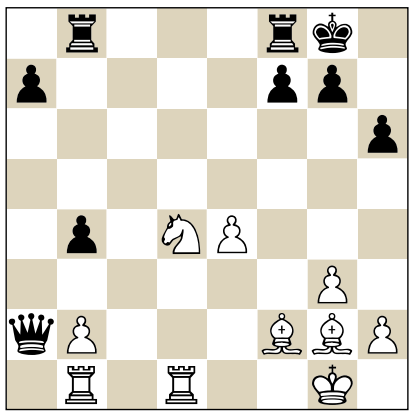


24...♕a4! 25.♘d4

25.♖a1 looks very passive, but it was a viable alternative: 25...♕c2 26.♘f4 ♕xb2 27.♗xa7 ♖bc8, and the a2-pawn is still weak.

25...♕xa2

Now White has a difficult task coordinating his forces to the maximum.

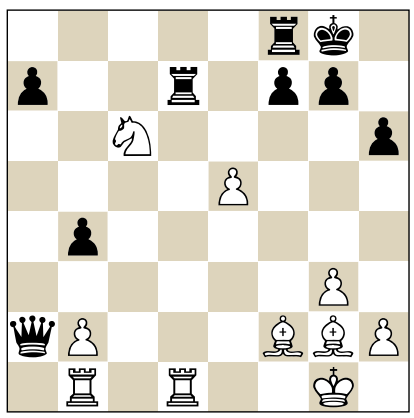


26.♘c6

Misplacing the knight in the hope of some concrete tricks, but it doesn't seem to work.

An interesting bishop manoeuvre comes to mind: 26.b3!? ♖bc8 (26...♖fe8!?, resources, resources) 27.♖a1 ♕b2 28.♗f1! ♖fd8 29.♗c4 ♖d7 30.♗d5, and now White has a solid grip on d5, unlike in the game, where the d5-square was not in White's control due to the absence of the pawn on e4. I believe White should be the one playing for a win along these lines, but then again, it's not so easy.

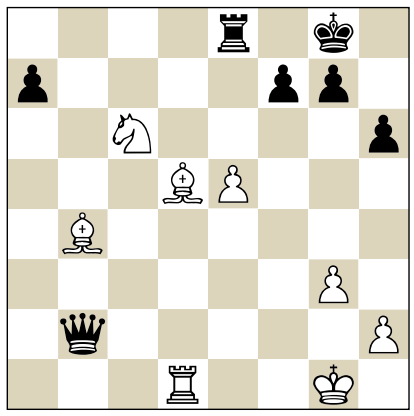
26...♖b7 27.e5 ♖d7!



A sweet move to make and one White may have missed.

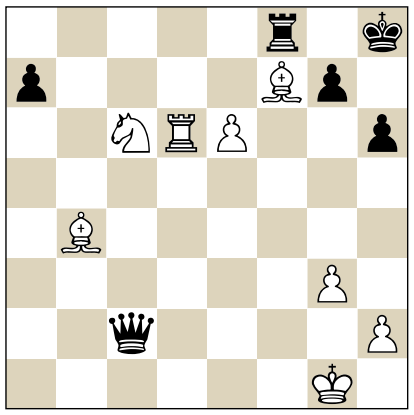
28.♗c5 ♖xd1+ 29.♖xd1 ♖e8 30.♗xb4 ♕xb2 The white pieces are very uncoordinated, and in fact it's already Black who is looking for chances. Being an admirer of three pieces, I would never have believed what I just wrote, but seeing the end of this game and the computer assessments, I have to deal a blow to my ego.

31.♗d5



31...♖e6!? A human move to neutralize the d5-bishop. The computer merely smiles at this try.

31...♔h8!! is a true demonstration of the computer's superiority in such positions. An absolutely unique display of computer geometry starts: 32.♗xf7 ♕c2! 33.♖d6 ♖f8!. What Black is doing doesn't seem to make sense, but it's just a level beyond what humans can grasp: 34.e6



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

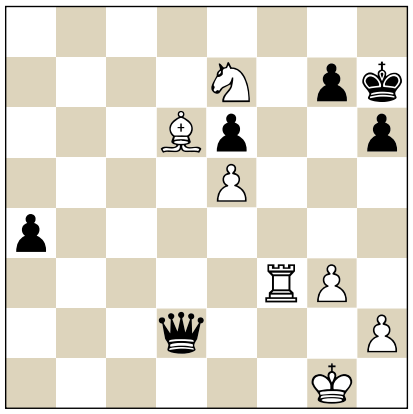
34...♔h7!!. While it's still not obvious, it transpires that White has no way to queen the e-pawn, and in fact ...a5 is a surprising threat. White's problem is the wide-open king, which is always caught in a fork: 35.♔f1! a5!! 36.♗xa5. Again it seems that Back has just given up his pawn, but the miracles continue: 36...♕f5+ 37.♔e1 ♖a8!, and White has no way to save his material superiority: 38.♔d2 ♖xa5 39.♘xa5 ♕xa5+ 40.♔d1 ♕a1+ 41.♔d2 ♕b2+ 42.♔d1 ♕xh2 43.♖d3, and it's beyond the computer's horizon to evaluate this position, while my horizon never even existed. White's e-pawn is very powerful, but maybe, with some ingenious manoeuvring, Black will be able to break White's defences thanks to his extra pawn on the kingside.

31...♖xe5 32.♘xe5 ♕xe5 would be making life easy for White, but should be enough for a draw, as Shakhriyar mentioned.

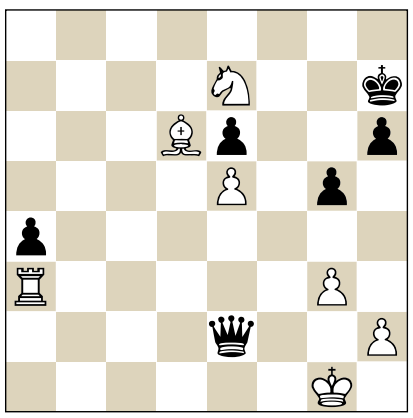
32.♗d6 32.♗xe6 was even easier, when White doesn't even let the black pawn cross the fifth rank, and the draw is obvious: 32...fxe6 33.♖d6 ♕e2 34.♗d2 ♔h7 35.h3, and neither side can make progress.

32...a5! 33.♖f1 ♕d2 34.♗xe6 fxe6 35.♘e7+ ♔h7 36.♖f3 a4

It seems as if White has an absolute fortress, but in fact he has to be careful not to end up in zugzwang. Again, the open king is to blame.



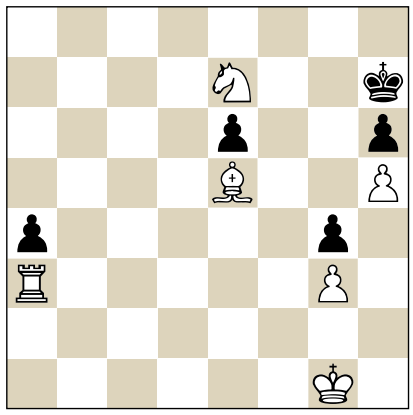
37.♖a3?!
This looks very safe, but soon it will transpire that the safety is illusory.
37.h4! would be holding the draw relatively easily: 37...♕e2 38.♖f2! ♕e3 39.♔g2, and Black has no way to make progress: 39...♕e4+ (39...a3 40.♖a2) 40.♔h2.
37...♕e1+ 38.♔g2 ♕e2+ 39.♔g1 g5!? Suddenly, White is in a very critical situation. He will soon end up in zugzwang.



40.♖a1? This loses by force. Vassily was unable to muster enough strength at the critical 40th move and find the only solution.
While 40.h3? is losing instructively to 40...h5 41.g4 h4 with zugzwang, there was 40.h4!. Desperate times call for desperate measures: 40...g4 (after 40...gxh4 41.gxh4 h5 White has cleared some squares for his rook: 42.♖g3!) 41.h5!!, securing the g6-square for the knight and the draw becomes easy: 41...♕xe5! (41...♔g7 42.♘g6). Just for the picture: 42.♗xe5 stalemate.

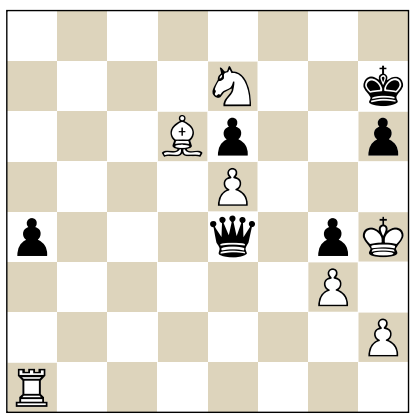
ALEXANDER MOTYLEV

Shakhriyar 'the chosen one' Mamedyarov, winner of the Beijing Grand Prix, meets the Chinese press.



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

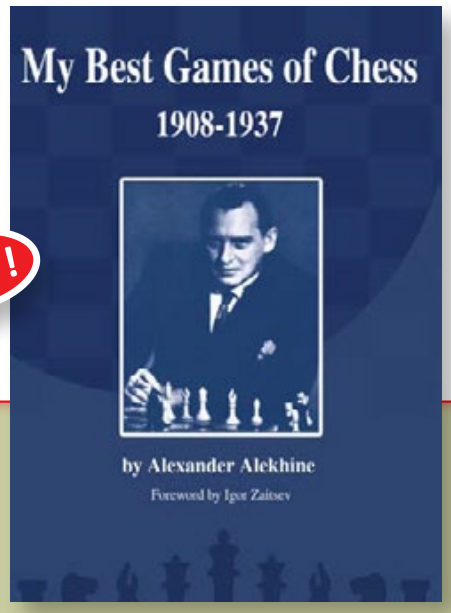
40...♕e3+ 41.♔g2 ♕e4+ 42.♔h3
Forced, as the dark squares are taboo due to 42...♕d4+, and 42.♔f1 ♕h1+ loses the rook as well.
42...g4+ 43.♔h4



43...♕e3!
The finishing touch: 44.♔xg4 ♕d4+ wins the rook. White resigned.

In the final round, Grischuk, who seems to get unlucky with people's preparation (I remember the Candidates' matches in Kazan when at some point he stopped even pretending and was making draws with white within 10-20 moves) failed in his mission to catch the leader. Peter Leko, with the black pieces, played an underrated Ragozin and after a logical attempt by White to open the position with f4, he established absolute domination over the light squares, the key of the whole modern system. Grischuk was surprisingly unaware of this, as even yours truly has seen this drawing mechanism on a holiday a year ago (and twice today in my database). Either way, Alexander saw no need to play on once his strategy has failed and I guess he was reasonably content as he finished in second place and still has a theoretical chance to qualify for the Candidates' tournament, provided he takes sole first place in the last stage.

Regarding the final position of this game, the transmission of the engine's assessment, which in my opinion is one of the most amazing and terrifying (mostly the latter) tools these days, was pretty misleading, as it often is. Grischuk's move repetition shouldn't



NEW!

This new 21st-century edition, presented with modern algebraic notation, has combined two books into a single volume, added more than three dozen archival photographs, crosstables, Alekhine's complete match and tournament records, a foreword by Russian grandmaster Igor Zaitsev, as well as many more diagrams.

A comprehensive computer-assisted analytical supplement has also been prepared and is available for download at no extra charge, so that, if you wish, you may compare Alekhine's impressive notes with the preferences of the silicon monster.

♦

"One of the most basic resources for chess players of all strengths ... Russell Enterprises is to be applauded for making this superb edition available."
Donald McKim at JeremySilman.com

"You will find technical and strategic masterpieces, but above all you will find dazzling chess ideas produced by a man with an explosively fecund imagination for the game. It's a chess book every club player ought to have."
Dennis Monokroussos, The Chess Mind

♦

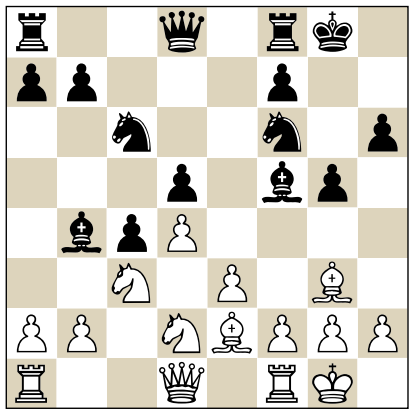
paperback • 456 pages • € 29.95
available at your local (chess)bookseller
or at www.newinchess.com

be blamed on lack of fighting spirit. The computer's 0.10-0.20 assessment is based on its lack of understanding of the position (rare as it is). If you give Black one more move to consolidate, he will be the only one playing for a win in this strategically complicated position.

I think that, generally speaking, the worst combination for our game, especially in professional chess, is the duo engine analysis plus uncensored chat window. But this theme deserves a separate essay.

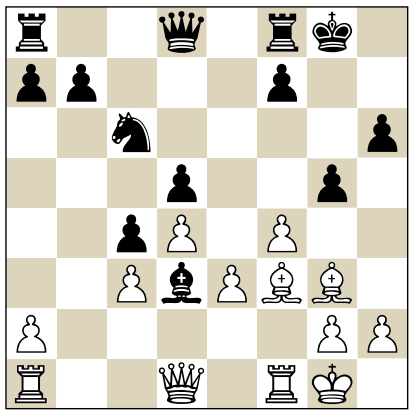
NI 27.2 – D38
Alexander Grischuk
Peter Leko
Beijing 2013 (11)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♗b4 5.cxd5 exd5 6.♗g5 h6 7.♗h4 c5 8.e3 c4 9.♗e2 g5 10.♗g3 ♘c6 11.♘d2 ♗f5 12.0-0 0-0



13.f4
Nowadays the role of the computer in one's preparation is much higher than that of games played by strong players. However, sometimes it's still worth checking what was actually going on before.
Had Alexander looked for games in this variation, he might have paid some attention to the following one: 13.a3 ♗xc3 14.bxc3 ♕e7 15.a4 ♖fe8 16.♖e1 ♗g6 17.♗f1 ♘e4 18.♘xe4 ♕xe4 19.f3 ♕c2 20.♕xc2 ♗xc2 21.e4, and White beautifully achieved all he wanted to achieve in Jakovenko-Wojtaszek, Eilat 2012. But surely Peter Leko has his own opinion on this game.

13...♗xc3! Played before by the strong GMs Hracek and David.
14.bxc3 ♘e4 15.♘xe4 ♗xe4 16.♗f3 ♗d3 17.♗e2 ♗e4
Perhaps the best way to avoid the repetition would be 17...♗h7!?, but why would Black need that?
18.♗f3 ♗d3



19.♗e2 Now, even though the computer suggests that White can basically deviate in any way he wishes, with even a small plus, things are actually not that simple. Suppose White does something else, let's say 19.♖f2, then after 19...f5! the question arises: what does White do in this position? The answer 0.20 doesn't seem satisfactory. Computer lovers should perhaps follow the advice of a friend of mine. He likes to say: 'Just give it a minute, then it 'drops'.' Indeed, for a minute, it is 0.11, a minute longer and Houdini is also ready to shake hands with the unbeatable Peter Leko. Draw.

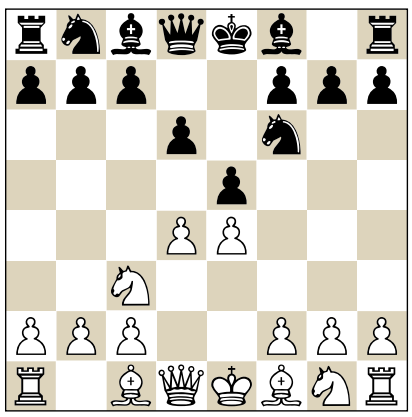
■ ■ ■

Topalov, who played his most important game of the whole GP series, clinched a very convincing victory over Morozevich, who he seems to psychologically dominate throughout this cycle, as he won all the three games they played in this Grand Prix. As a result, Topalov became the overall winner of the 2012-13 Grand Prix and secured his ticket to the Candidates' tournament scheduled for early 2014. Recently I saw an interview with him in which the terms 'rest' and 'celebration' dominated, so it doesn't seem that hard to guess what his plans for the coming months look like.

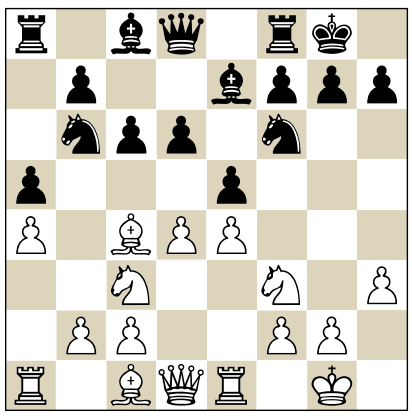
NOTES BY
Veselin Topalov

KP 4.16 – C41
Veselin Topalov
Alexander Morozevich
Beijing 2013 (11)

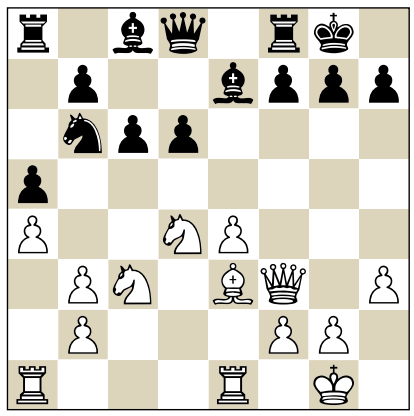
1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e5



4.♘f3 Since the opening choice of my opponent came as a surprise to me, I thought for a while about playing 4. ♘ge2, a move I believed would lead both of us onto unknown territory. But then, for some reason, I remembered the game Svidler-Salgado from the 2010 Olympiad in Khanty-Mansiysk (see New In Chess 2010/7 – ed.) and decided to play the move in the game.
4...♘bd7 5.♗c4 ♗e7 6.0-0 0-0 7.a4 c6 8.♖e1 a5
It is hard to say if this move or 8... b6 is really the main line here, as in my database I have over a thousand games after both continuations.
9.h3 ♘b6



I don't like this move and the idea behind it. As it turned out, Morozevich had already played in a very similar way against Judit (Polgar) in San Luis 2005, a game I could not recall during the last round in Beijing.
10.♗b3
This looked natural to me. Actually, I had just lost to Giri in the previous round after a mistake that was difficult to explain, so I decided to quickly play moves that I believed to be strong and logical. Also the fact that the last round had started two hours before the usual time made me think that it was a moment to be practical. Later in the game I became more ambitious; I had probably just woken up ☺.
10.♗a2 is more popular here.
10...♘fd7
Before playing my 10th move I thought that Black's idea was to play 10...exd4 11.♘xd4 d5, but 12.exd5 ♘fxd5 13.♘xd5 ♘xd5 14.♗xd5 cxd5 leads to a slightly better position for White without any risk.
11.♗e3 exd4 12.♘xd4
The two other captures are also good, but I could take only with one piece!
12...♘c5 13.♕f3 ♘xb3 14.cxb3



14...♗e6
Strictly speaking, this is a new move. 14...♘d7 was played in Rublevsky-Bologan, Tomsk 2006, but somehow the very fact that Black loses so much time to find a place for his knight, while White makes natural developing moves, means that something is wrong with Black's strategy. I do not

ALEXANDER MOTYLEV

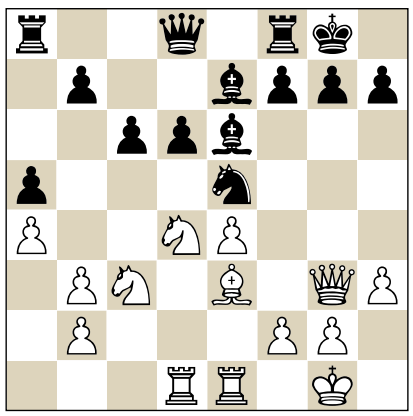
Veselin Topalov questioned the resigning strategy of Alexander Morozevich after he'd also won his third Grand Prix encounter against the Russian.

believe that all the lost tempi compensate for the exchange of the white light-squared bishop.

15.♖ad1 ♘d7 16.♕g3

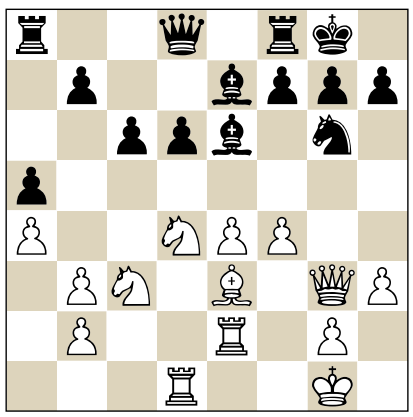
16.♗f4 was also very strong.

16...♘e5



17.♖e2 I seriously considered 17.♘f5, as I thought it was the right time for this move: 17...♗xf5 18.exf5 forces 18...f6 and now the typical 19.♘e2, aiming to go to d4 and e6, is strong. But again, I had to choose only one move and I preferred to keep the tension.

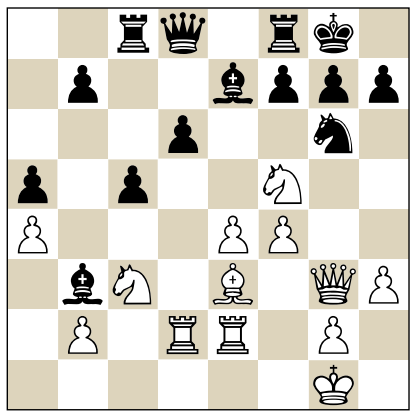
17...♘g6 18.f4



18...c5?! Apparently, 18...♗d7 19.f5 ♘e5 20.♘f3 f6, with a passive position, was not to my opponent's taste. Still, it was much better than the move in the game. Now I again had a pleasant choice between 19.♘xe6 fxe6 20.♕g4 ♕c8 21.g3, with a big positional advantage, and the game move, which is even more ambitious.

19.♘f5 ♗xb3 20.♖dd2 ♖c8

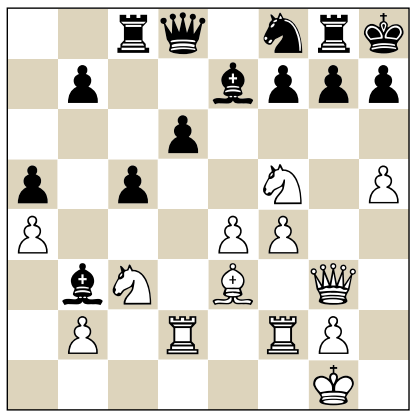
20...b6 was probably a better way to protect the pawn on c5, but there too White would have kept a serious advantage.



21.♖f2

21.h4! immediately was also strong. Compared to the game Black does not have time to defend the pawn on g7, and after 21...♗xh4 22.♘xh4 ♕xh4 23.♕xh4 ♘xh4 24.f5! Black's knight is in big trouble.

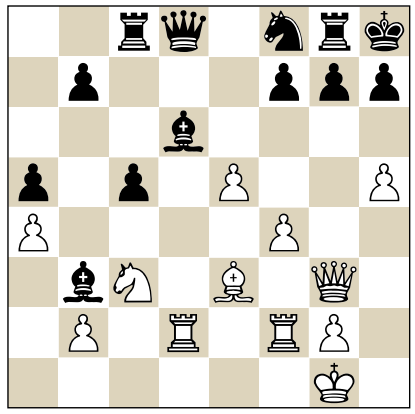
21...♔h8 22.h4 ♖g8 23.h5 ♘f8



24.♘xd6

My engine also believes that after 24.e5 d5 25.♘xe7 ♕xe7 26.♘xd5 ♗xd5 27.♖xd5 Black's position is very difficult if not impossible to defend.

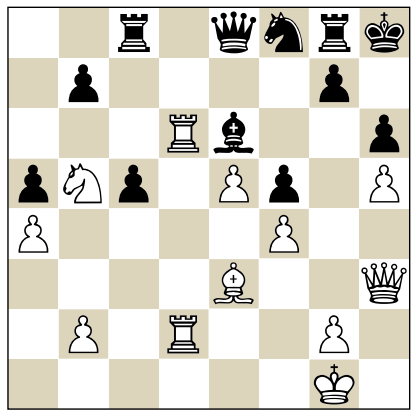
24...♗xd6 25.e5



25...f5 It is hard to give Black any good advice. For example: 25...♕e8 26.♖xd6 ♗xa4 27.f5!, and White dominates and will soon create a decisive attack.

With the move in the game Black tries to block the position and secure a good place for his knight on e6.

26.♖xd6 ♕e8 27.♕h3 ♗e6 28.♖fd2 h6 29.♘b5



The final assault starts. **29...♘d7 30.♕f3 b6 31.♕d1 ♘f8 32.♖xb6**

I felt I was totally winning and that

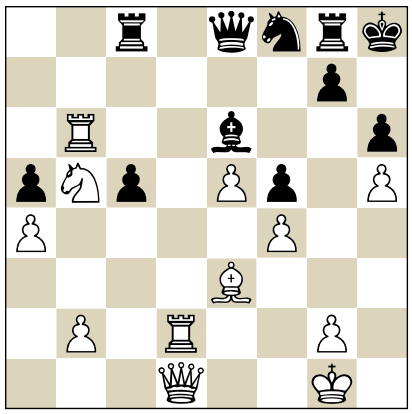
Beijing 2013 — **cat. XXI**

				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		TPR
1	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	IGM	AZE	2761	*	0	1	½	1	½	0	1	½	1	1	½	7	2853
2	Alexander Grischuk	IGM	RUS	2780	1	*	½	½	½	1	½	½	0	½	½	1	6½	2814
3	Veselin Topalov	IGM	BUL	2767	0	½	*	½	1	½	1	0	1	½	½	½	6	2786
4	Peter Leko	IGM	HUN	2737	½	½	½	*	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	6	2789
5	Sergey Karjakin	IGM	RUS	2776	0	½	0	0	*	½	1	1	½	1	½	½	5½	2749
6	Wang Yue	IGM	CHN	2705	½	0	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	0	1	5½	2756
7	Alexander Morozevich	IGM	RUS	2736	1	½	0	½	0	½	*	½	1	½	0	1	5½	2753
8	Anish Giri	IGM	NED	2734	0	½	1	½	0	½	½	*	1	0	½	1	5½	2753
9	Boris Gelfand	IGM	ISR	2773	½	1	0	½	½	½	0	0	*	½	1	½	5	2713
10	Wang Hao	IGM	CHN	2752	0	½	½	½	0	0	½	1	½	*	½	1	5	2715
11	Vassily Ivanchuk	IGM	UKR	2733	0	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	0	½	*	0	5	2717
12	Gata Kamsky	IGM	USA	2763	½	0	½	½	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	*	3½	2617

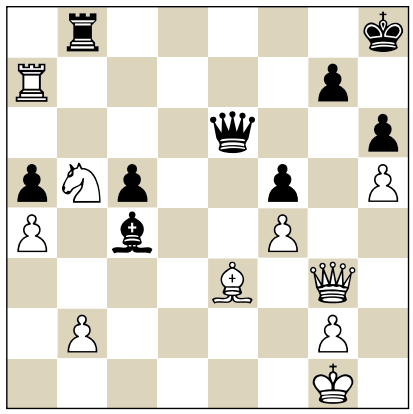
2012-13 FIDE Grand Prix standings after 5 legs

				London	Tashkent	Zug	Thessal	Beijing	(Paris)	Played	Best 3
1	Veselin Topalov	BUL	2752	140	–	170	(45)	100	–	4	410
2	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	AZE	2729	140	80	(20)	–	170	–	4	390
3	Alexander Grischuk	RUS	2763	90	–	–	85	140	x	3	315
4	Fabiano Caruana	ITA	2773	–	80	100	125	–	x	3	305
5	Alexander Morozevich	RUS	2770	–	140	75	(25)	65	–	4	280
6	Sergey Karjakin	RUS	2785	–	140	50	–	65	x	3	255
7	Wang Hao	CHN	2726	70	140	–	–	30	x	3	240
8	Ruslan Ponomariov	UKR	2734	–	50	100	85	–	x	3	235
9	Peter Leko	HUN	2737	80	50	(50)	–	100	–	4	230
10	Leinier Domínguez	CUB	2725	35	20	–	170	–	x	3	225
11	Hikaru Nakamura	USA	2778	15	–	140	60	–	x	3	215
12	Gata Kamsky	USA	2746	–	10	75	125	(10)	–	4	210
13	Boris Gelfand	ISR	2738	140	30	–	–	30	x	3	200
14	Rustam Kasimdzhanov	UZB	2684	35	80	(20)	70	–	–	4	185
15	Anish Giri	NED	2711	15	–	50	–	65	x	3	130
16	Peter Svidler	RUS	2749	–	50	–	45	–	x	2	95
17	Vassily Ivanchuk	UKR	2769	55	–	–	10	30	x	3	95
18	Wang Yue	CHN	2685	–	–	–	–	65	–	1	65
19	Michael Adams	ENG	2722	55	–	–	–	–	–	1	55
20	Etienne Bacrot	FRA	2713	–	–	–	25	–	–	1	25
21	Teimour Radjabov	AZE	2788	–	–	20	–	–	x	1	20
22	Vugar Gashimov	AZE	2737	–	–	withdrew				–	–

the only thing I should not do was to blunder in my opponent's time-trouble. Fortunately, my moves were very easy.

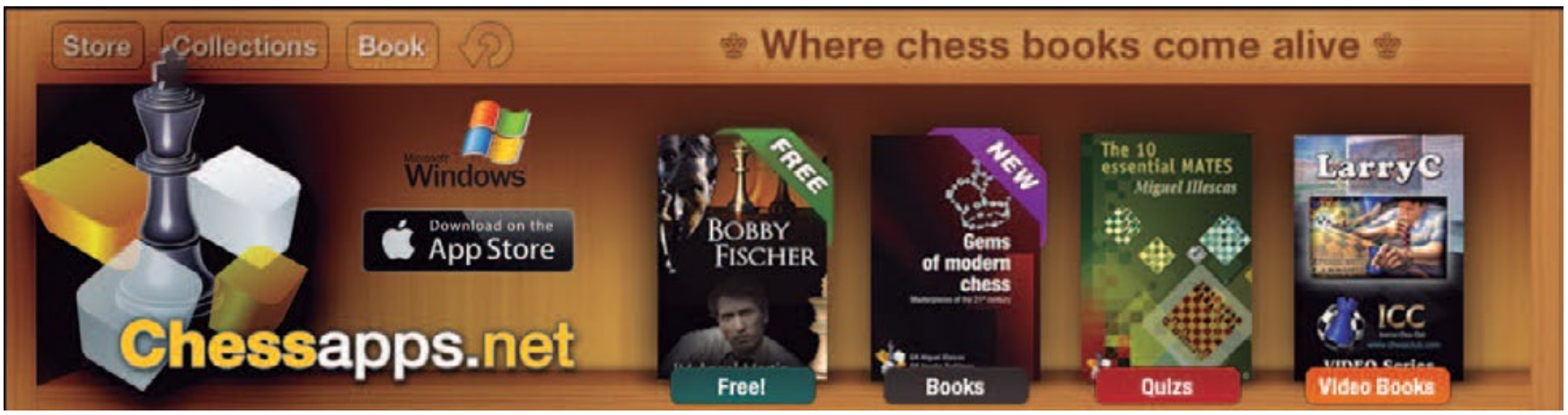


32...♕e7 33.♕f3 ♘d7 34.♖b7 ♖b8 35.♖a7 ♖gd8 36.♖d6 ♕f7 37.♘c7 ♗c4 38.e6 ♕e7 39.♖xd7 ♖xd7 40. exd7 ♕xd7 41.♘b5 ♕e6 42.♕g3



Here, two moves after the time control, my opponent walked around watching the remaining games for about 10 minutes and then signed the scoresheet without shaking hands. Nor did he show up at the press conference after the game, just as after his loss against me in Zug.

In general, there are supposed to be sanctions for misbehaviour, but I guess that an organization whose leadership only really cares about how to win the next elections is simply afraid to apply the rules. ■

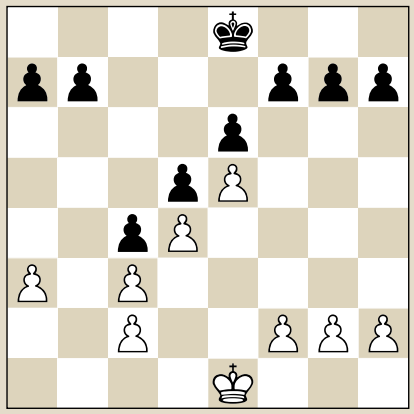


The French Winawer Guide

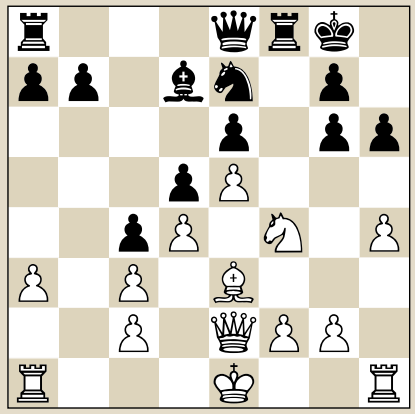
The French Winawer (1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4) has always been a blind spot of mine. I never wanted to touch it from the black side while my attempts to 'just do something sensible' on the white side during blitz games usually led to disaster. Conclusion for me, in the immortal words of Frank Drebin: move on, nothing to see here. But... it suddenly seemed like a nice idea for this column to give the Winawer one last chance. Could any of the books on the market give me a reasonable sense of what was going on and convince me the Winawer was worth playing?

Just to give myself a little start before the books arrived, I went through my normal preparation routine for an opening. I brought together the games of a few French Winawer players I knew and played through them. It's always interesting to see the choices they make in move orders and variations. I then made a compilation of recent strong games (average players 2500+) in a few different variations (1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♘e7 and now 7.♕g4, 7.a4, 7.h4, 7.♘f3 and 7.♗d3) and went through those. I wasn't really trying to understand anything; I was just a tourist, looking to get a few landmarks in these positions, ideas that I would recognize when I came across them in the books. I must have played through about 350-400 French Winawer games in total. So which ideas jumped out at me?

Gaining queenside space with ...c4



Somehow ...c4 feels all wrong to me. Releasing the central tension inevitably restricts Black's active options on the queenside. It also feels strange after wrecking White's queenside structure to then block the c-file (which could be used to attack the c3- and c2-pawns) and occupy a great outpost (c4) with a pawn. It is however a major idea for Black in the quieter variations. Its biggest plus is that White's light-squared bishop is chased away from the b1-h7 diagonal (often with tempo) which makes Black's kingside a lot safer. ...c4 also cramps White's position, which adds power to a challenge of White's centre with ...f6. Black also seems to get a surprising amount of counterplay by rushing forward the a- and b-pawns:



Kobalia-Lputian
Sochi 2006

18...b5 19.♕d2 a5 20.♔e2 ♕f7 21.♖ab1 ♘f5 22.g3 b4

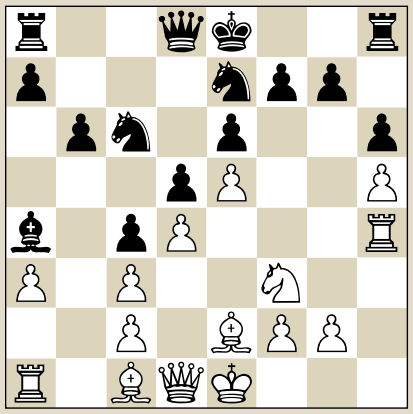
It was completely unclear to me though when you should play ...c4. Sometimes it was played early, sometimes it seemed to be forced, sometimes it came much later... and the results seemed very variable!

The French Winawer – Move by Move
Essential guidance and training in the French Winawer
by Steve Giddins
Everyman Chess
2013

a4 is the key!

The idea of putting the bishop or queen to a4 was familiar to me from old Botvinnik games. I had assumed though that Black players would have found better things to do in the meantime than put a bishop or queen offside to attack a pawn on c2 that can easily be defended. But it's still one of the major ideas! Also shocking to see that the glorious regrouping idea below (often quoted in Dvoretsky's

books) has become commonplace and has been played many times!



A.Sokolov-Jussupow
Candidates' 1986

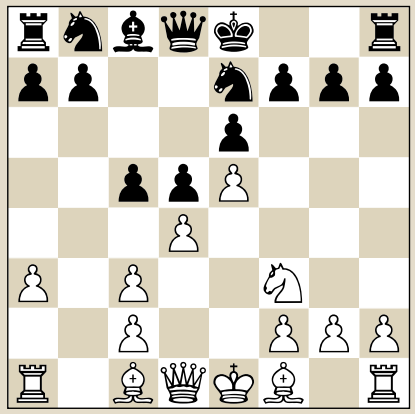
13...♔d7 14.♗e3 ♕g8 15.♕d2 ♕h7 16.♖c1 ♔c7 17.♖f4 ♖af8 18.♘h4 ♘d8 19.♗g4 ♔b7 20.♖f3 ♗e8 21.♖h3 g5

The art of the kingside break

Mostly, Black will get counterplay by breaking on the kingside, either by ...f6 or by ...g5 (the latter especially when White has played h4-h5 to try to cramp Black's kingside). Note how the transfer of the queen to h7 in the above game helped Black to achieve the ...g5 break by strengthening Black's protection of the kingside light and dark squares. It's not at all easy to judge which breaks work well and which don't...and when you should wait. I've seen all results in all structures!

Jussupow's recipe for dealing with the two bishops

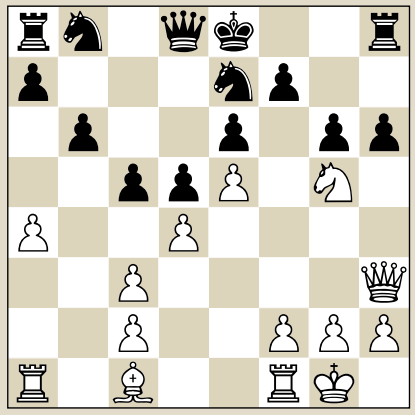
In his book *Chess Evolution: Mastery* (reviewed in the last issue) Jussupow drew up a few simple rules for playing against the two bishops, one of which was 'try to exchange one of them'. He certainly practises what he preaches in this variation.



A typical manoeuvre from A.Sokolov-Jussupow, Candidates' 1986:
7...b6 8.a4 ♗a6 9.♗xa6 ♘xa6

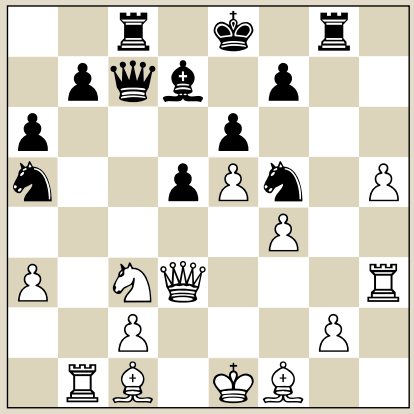
The self-defending king

The best Black players manage to work wonders of defence with just a few kingside pawns, a knight and a king that's not afraid to travel! A pawn on h6 and a well-timed ...f5 break are key elements in defending the black king with a minimum of resources. Often the additional precaution has been taken of either nudging the light-squared bishop from the b1-h7 diagonal with ...c4, or even exchanging it (see themes above). For example, how about this game from a very young Nigel Short:



13...cxd4 14.cxd4 ♘bc6 15.♘f3 ♔d7 16.c3 ♖c8 17.♘d2 ♘a5 18.♕f3 ♖h7 19.♗a3 ♘f5 20.♕d3 ♕c7 21.♕b5+ ♕c6

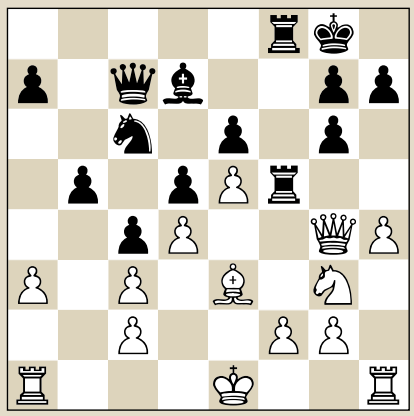
This concept of the self-defending king can be taken to quite ridiculous extremes...



From Zawadzka-Berg, Warsaw 2008. How about this for a defensive concept? **17...♔f8 18.h6 ♖g6 19.a4 ♔g8 20.h7+ ♔h8** and Black just carried on as if nothing had happened!

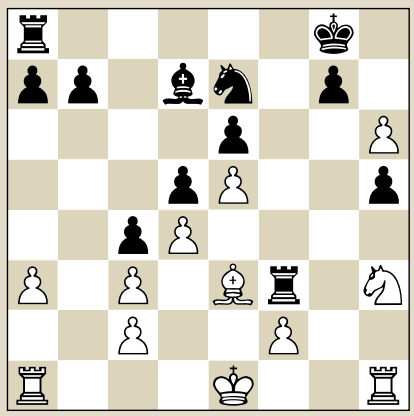
The exchange sacrifice

Anywhere, anytime! You can't play the Winawer if you like material equality. A selection from the many examples I came across:



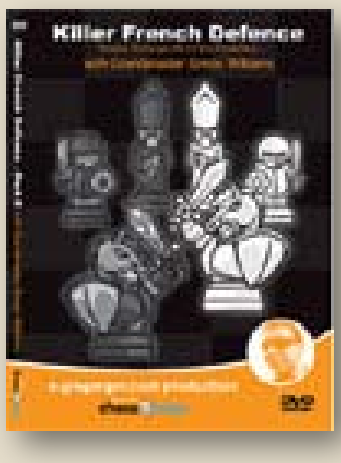
Landa-Timman
Netherlands 2005

17...♕a5 18.♔d2 ♗e8 19.f3 ♘e7 20.♗g5 ♘c6 21.♗e3 ♘e7 22.♗g5 ♘c6 ½-½



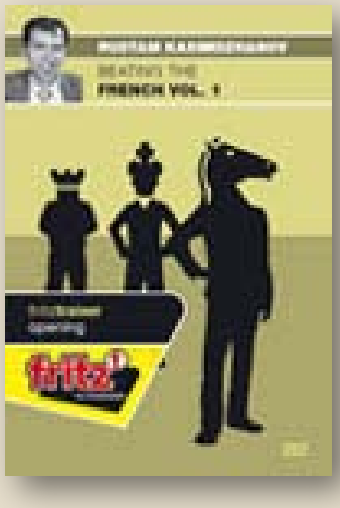
Korneev-Apicella
Cap d'Agde 2002

22...♖xh3 23.♖xh3 g6 24.a4 a5



Killer French Defence – Part 2
Winawer, Exchange, KIA & other Possibilities
by Simon Williams
DVD
Ginger GM, 2010

Sadler on Books



Beating the French
Volume 1
Kasim Shows The Way Against 3.Nc3 Bb4
by Rustam Kasimdzhanov
DVD
ChessBase, 2007

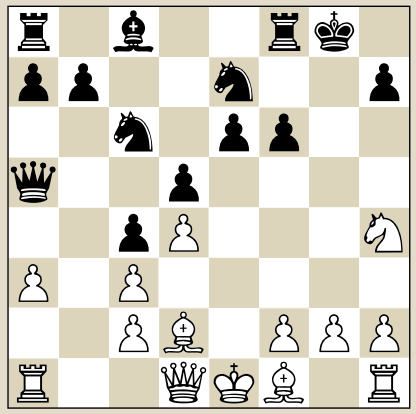
25.♔e2 ♔h7 26.♖hh1 ♘f5 27.♖ab1 ♗c6

So we're still confused, but no longer completely clueless! Bring on the books! In fact, we're not really looking for one single book, but rather a cocktail of books: a few books to lead you past the initial complexities of the opening and then additional books that give you some concrete lines to play and also stimulate you to make your own discoveries in the opening.

It seemed appropriate to start off with ***The French Winawer – Move by Move*** by Steve Giddins. I should declare an interest here as I've known Steve for many years and he was my first coach all those years ago. He's played the Winawer for many years... I've never known a period when he hasn't been depressed about his dark squares! As a startup book to ease you into the Winawer, this one is just about perfect. The book is organized around 25 annotated games, with each move explained in a simple Q & A format. There are a number of things I really liked about it:

1. The historical perspective

The first 11 games were played between 1944 and 1979 and include classic games by the old-time greats of the Winawer: Botvinnik, Kortchnoi and Uhlmann. I had seen all of these games individually in various games collections, but seeing them one after the other makes a powerful impression: you get a tremendous sense of the evolution of the opening. I also liked gritty examples like the Byrne-Kortchnoi game from The Master Game in 1979, which had really struck me as a child. It's a beautiful example of how to hold together a ropey French position and then move on to the win:



13.g3 ♖f7 14.♗g2 ♗d7 15.0-0 ♘g6 16.♘xg6 hxg6 17.h4 ♖h7 18.♖e1 ♖e8 19.♕f3 ♔g7 20.♗f4 ♘d8 21.♖e2 ♘f7 22.♖e3 ♖hh8 23.♕e2 ♗c6 24.♕d2 ♖e7 25.♖e2 ♖he8 26.g4 e5 and Black went on to win. Some great defensive manoeuvres there: ...♖f7-h7, ...♘c6-d8-f7 and finally the reorganization to play ...e5!

Fit for the French
My Complete White Repertoire
by Victor Bologan
DVD
ChessBase, 2010

2. Discussion of typical themes

All of the themes we discussed above get a thorough discussion. For example, we get to hear about the plusses and minuses of the ...c4 idea. In these early games, the move ...c4 is discussed every time it appears (often in slightly different circumstances), which gives you a feel for good and bad versions of this idea.

NOT YET A SUBSCRIBER?

You are not yet a subscriber to New In Chess? Give it a try. Take out a subscription today on the premier chess magazine in the world, and receive 8 issues a year, immediately after publication, on your doormat!

	EUROPE	U.K.	U.S.A & CANADA	REST OF THE WORLD
1 year (8 issues)	€ 76.50	£ 64.50	$ 98	€ 94
2 years (16 issues)	€ 145	£ 121	$ 191	€ 165
3 years (24 issues)	€ 215	£ 181	$ 277	€ 239

SUBSCRIBE DIRECTLY AT WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM

New In Chess, P.O. Box 1093, 1810 KB Alkmaar, The Netherlands. Phone: 0031-(0)72 512 7137, Fax 0031-(0)72 515 8234, www.newinchess.com, nic@newinchess.com

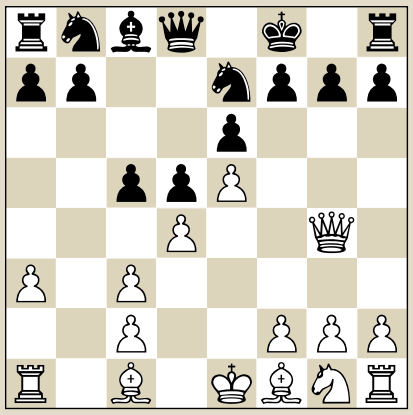
NEW! NEW!

USA and Canada only: New In Chess c/o Land of Chess, 707 Skokie Blvd, Suite 600, Northbrook, IL 60062, Phone: 847-480-2780, www.newinchess.com, nic@newinchess.com

NEW! **Checks should be made payable to *Land of Chess*** NEW!

3. Not too many esoteric lines

There are some very confusing lines in the French. Take this line – a favourite of Eingorn's – which Moskalenko covers at length in ***The Wonderful Winawer*** (7.♕g4 ♔f8):

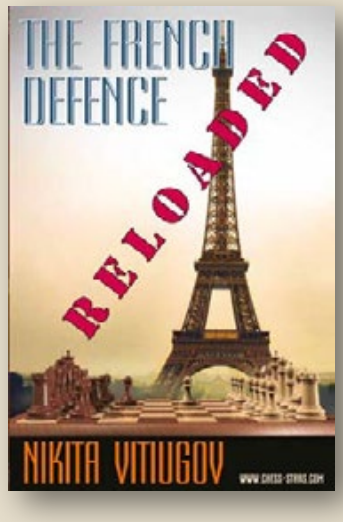


This is not a variation you should start with if you want to understand the Winawer. Here Black is pushing the position to its limits. The long-term problem Black has accepted – the poor position of his king – adds a randomizing factor to the position and makes accurate assessments extremely tricky. A good-looking positional continuation for Black may turn out to be inferior all the same due to the interrupted coordination between his rooks. It's something you can play only after you've properly understood the drawbacks of other lines. ***The French Winawer – Move by Move*** only mentions such lines briefly and focusses much more heavily on more normal ideas. For a book designed to get you going, that's a good approach.

So we've taken the first step to understanding the opening. What's the next step? I didn't quite feel ready for masses of complex variations yet. I wanted something just a bit more advanced to bridge the gap to the heavy theory books. I was looking for a few basic lines and a bit more reassurance about which positions are playable/interesting for Black, and which should be avoided. Time to go multimedia...

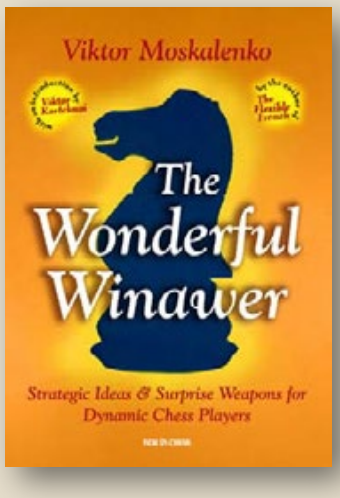
I've always been a little sceptical about chess DVD's. First of all, I find it tough sitting still in front of my computer screen without getting distracted and clicking somewhere else. I have always felt that I absorb much more information in 5 hours of reading a book than in 5 hours of listening to a DVD. However, maybe that's also one of the strengths of the medium. You can easily get overwhelmed by all the variations in a book; a DVD is a great way of just getting the main points across. If the presenter brings those points across in an engaging way, then that is also a great help for remembering them. For example, I was watching Victor Bologan's excellent ***Fit for the French. My complete White opening repertoire*** DVD in which he demonstrates one of his quick wins against the 7.♕g4 ♔f8 line. He was so clearly unimpressed with this Black variation, I just had to chuckle to myself. And lo and behold, all I have to do now is think of Victor, and I can reproduce the moves of the game perfectly despite having watched that chapter only once.

I started off with Simon Williams' ***Killer French Defence – Part 2***, watching the Winawer sections on the train coming back from Paris... and the trip just flew by! He's a natural for this medium, far and away the best presenter of chess material I've seen so far. One of the big problems with building up an opening repertory initially is to know which lines are important (and thus need to be learnt) and which lines can be worked out at the board (on the basis of general concepts). Williams' approach is very good. He states very clearly which lines are critical and which are not, and tailors his material accordingly. Unimportant lines are dealt with by a sample variation and a general explanation of the ideas, while the important lines (like the 7.♕g4 ♕c7 'Poisoned Pawn' line) get extensive treatment. This is a super way to get a basic repertory together. There was just one thing that made me laugh. Williams mentions the importance of thinking logically a few times, but his examples aren't always 100% convincing. I particularly enjoyed this one: 'My opponent has played ♖b4. How can I think logically against that... Well logically, let's threaten checkmate: that looks like a good idea.' Can't argue with that ☺.



The French Defence. Reloaded
A Completely Updated Edition
by Nikita Vitiugov
Chess Stars, 2012

I also took a closer look at two other DVD's: ***Beating the French – Volume 1*** by Rustam Kasimdzhanov and ***Fit for the French. My complete White opening repertoire*** by Victor Bologan. Both DVD's are presented from White's point of view. However, even if you only want to play the Winawer as Black, it can still be extremely useful to take a look. Both are fantastic summaries of the type of positions that White will be aiming to achieve against you! Bologan manages a good mix of providing concrete variations for White while also imparting a few choice positional nuggets along the way. Kasimdzhanov selects a number of excellent illustrative games and I enjoyed his commentary greatly. It's not difficult stuff, no long variations, just somebody who knows what he's talking about telling you which positions are good and why. After looking at these DVD's, I had a much clearer idea of which lines I would probably *not* want to be playing as Black! I also



The Wonderful Winawer
Strategic Ideas & Surprise Weapons for Dynamic Chess Players
by Viktor Moskalenko
New In Chess, 2010

noticed that the black king isn't *always* successful at defending himself ☺.

If I have to make one criticism, you might wonder whether Kasimdzhanov's DVD actually fulfils its stated goal – to give White a complete repertoire against the Winawer – completely, as the treatment of the crazy main lines (7.♕g4 cxd4 8.♕xg7 ♖g8 9.♕xh7 ♕c7) is extremely brief. I wouldn't recommend any White player venturing into these lines armed only with the material on this DVD. However, in all other respects, his DVD is a really good positional survey of the Winawer lines.

Right, ready for the heavy stuff now: Victor Moskalenko's ***The Wonderful Winawer***. It's a real Super Mario of an opening book! TRICK! WEAPON! Where will the next alert come from? ☺ At times, I got the same feeling here as with Basman's books on the Grob or the St. George. The author's enthusiasm for his opening is irresistibly infectious, so much so that *everything* looks good for Black! That's why it's so nice to have gone through DVD's from the White point of view like Bologan's or Kasimdzhanov's beforehand: you're pre-armed with a little bit of scepticism, which makes it easier to keep your objectivity. It's probably not the book you should start with to learn the opening but it's a fantastic supplementary book once you've decided on the lines you're interested in playing. Just pick up this book, look up your variation and you're bound to find a few new interesting ideas lurking in the pages for you. And it's great fun to read!

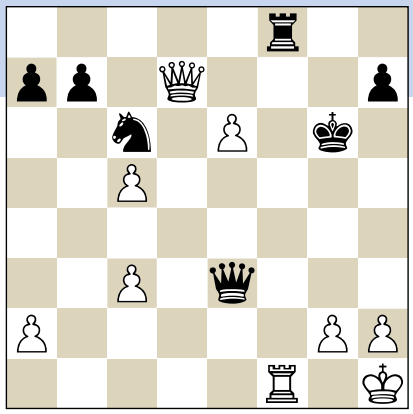
Vitiugov's ***The French Defence. Reloaded*** is a much more traditional effort but also impressive in its own way. It's too dense and complicated to be used as a starting place for learning the Winawer, but once you've got an idea of what you want to do, it's a good summary of the current state of theory by one of the best French players currently. There's also very good coverage of other French lines.

So there we are. I'm not sure I've become a Winawer fan yet, but I have grown to appreciate the opening a lot more! If you want to learn the opening, I think it's crucial not to throw yourself into the deep end at once, but to build up your knowledge layer for layer. Get a grip of the basic ideas (a book like ***The French Winawer – Move by Move*** seems ideal to me), put together a basic repertoire (***Killer French Defence – Part 2*** is my recommendation, possibly topped up with either Bologan's or Kasimdzhanov's DVD just to make sure you also see things from your opponent's view as well) and only then step up to a more complicated book like Moskalenko's or Vitiugov's (or the latest version of Watson's classic ***Play the French***, which somehow escaped my pillaging of the New In Chess bookshop!). May the force be with you! ■

Yochanan Afek

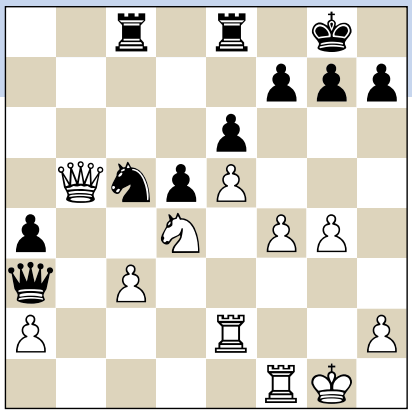
Beware: Brilliancy!

Solutions of page 43



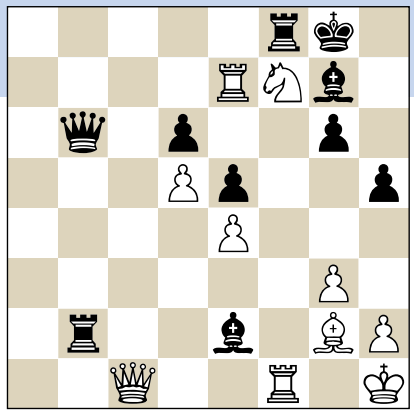
1. Short-Shirov
Dubai rapid 2002

White could have won the game on the spot had he chosen for the vigorous 30.♕f7+!.



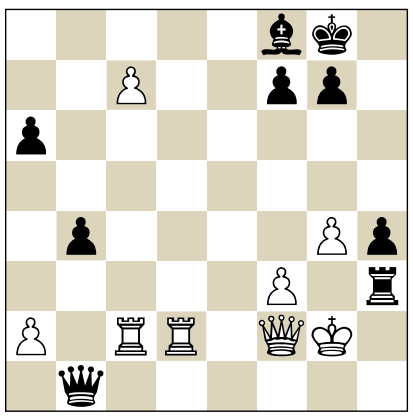
2. Bitensky-Kagansky
Israel 2004

26.♕xe8+! ♖xe8 27.♘b5, trapping the queen and leaving Black with the exchange down, was undoubtedly way better.



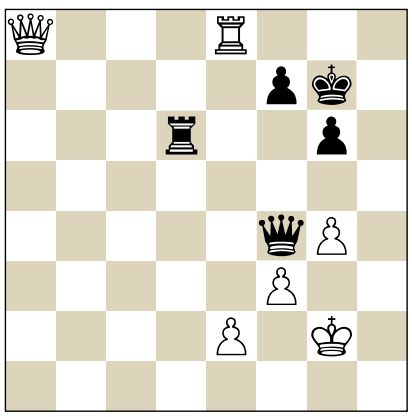
3. Mason-Smerdon
England 4 NCL 2012/13

Right square, wrong piece! Correct was the stunning 29.♕h6!!, with the lethal threat 30.♕h8+!.



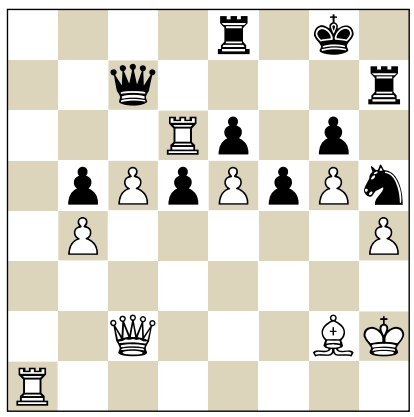
4. Bouaziz-Miles
Riga 1979

White could save the game by 46.♕f1!! ♖g3+ 47.♔f2 ♖xf3+ 48.♔xf3 ♕xf1+ 49.♔e4, where Black has no better than perpetual check.



5. Andersson-Van Oosterom
Haarlem 2012

The Swedish legend could actually force a win in three moves, visiting all four corners of the board: 52.♕a1+! ♖f6 53.♕h1! and next 54.♕h8. Such rarity!



6. Raznikov-Jirka
Israel 2012

Hard to believe, but in fact Black could obtain the better position with 36...♕g7! 37.♖e1 ♕h8!!, and next 38...♘f4!, with a clear advantage for Black. Another amazing case of right square, wrong piece!

Susan Polgar Chess Daily News

Everything you need within your fingertips

Bringing you updated, timely, fair, and objective chess daily news and information from around the globe

News * Puzzles * Improvement Tips * Analysis * Videos * Trivia * and much more

www.ChessDailyNews.com

Hans Ree

Something will turn up

At some point in his impressive book *The King's Gambit*, John Shaw writes: 'It was while analysing this variation that my computer's water-cooling system crashed and never recovered; the variation did something similar to my brain.' Hans Ree's involvement with the brain-crushing gambit has not always been happy.

It took some time before it came out, said the bookseller who saw me browsing through *The King's Gambit* by the Scottish grandmaster John Shaw. I could imagine that it did. The book has 680 big and densely printed pages, full of concrete analysis and with only a minimum – just a few paragraphs – of general explanation about 1.e4 e5 2.f4 weakening White's kingside, but having some redeeming properties too. The author takes it for granted that readers will know about the pros and cons of the King's Gambit.

It took him five years to write this book, in spare hours after his work as editor of the Quality Chess publishing company and with a little help from his friends. It's truly a work of love.

This is a book for King's Gambit diehards, directed, as Shaw writes, at a readership up to and including those with a 2800+ rating. In other words, it is for everyone, World Champions included, who is willing and able to study this massive tome.

Not for me, was my first thought. It's many years ago that I decided not to purchase or read opening books anymore. I kept my resolution only partly, for I went on buying opening books. But I did not study them. Put on the shelves they were supposed to enlighten me by osmosis. Silly, of course; I should really keep away from such books. They are for fighters in the bloom of youth.

But on the other hand, Shaw's book was a real monument devoted to a subject that has always been dear to me. I have played the King's Gambit only occasionally in serious games, though often in blitz, but I know a lot about it. What I liked about the gambit was that you would have no idea what kind of position you would stumble into. With for instance the Evans Gambit you know what you're in for. White sacrifices a pawn, gets a lead in development and will hopefully develop an attack. But the King's Gambit can go into any direction; it's supposed to be an aggressive opening, but in many lines Black is doing the attacking, while White is hoping to hold out for a favourable endgame.

Suicide as an artistic expression

Entering an unknown land, how romantic. But in general, when playing other openings I, like most players, tried to minimize uncertainty by preparing for an opponent and concentrating on specific variations. In a way the King's Gambit was a vacation from normal chess.

And I didn't do well with it. Against really strong grandmasters I lost to O'Kelly, Gligoric and Short and made a draw against Smejkal. Those were all interesting games, but losing in an interesting way was not my aim. Playing over these games recently, I was reminded of Siegbert Tarrasch's dictum that by playing a gambit one sacrifices a point in order to earn a reputation as a romantic.

My database contains only one game in which I had the pleasure to play against the King's Gambit as Black. I took the pawn on f4, kept it and used it for a decisive attack against White's king. Easy work; wish there would have been more gambiteers around.

As Tarrasch already noted, gambiteers receive much praise. Spending some material in exchange for an increase of activity is not frowned upon as the irresponsible behaviour of a drunk, but rather seen as chivalrous idealism.

On the back cover of Shaw's book, Spassky and Bronstein are mentioned as keepers of the flame, and contemporary players like Short, Nakamura and Zviagintsev are called the honourable exceptions whose games prove that the ancient King's Gambit can still draw blood. The opening itself is called the ultimate romantic chess opening.

What does that mean? The Romantic movement in Western culture stands for the exultation of subjectivity, strong emotions, imagination and the exploration of the unknown. In its darker forms it is also connected – especially since the appearance of Goethe's *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers* (The Sorrows of Young Werther) in 1774 – with

a fascination with death and suicide as an artistic expression. Sounds like the King's Gambit alright. Obviously, many good things and many bad things can be said about romanticism in life and in chess.

Two King's Gambit kings

I had a look at David Bronstein's charming book *200 Open Games*. The games were all played by Bronstein himself. The greater part of the book is devoted to the Ruy Lopez, as it should be, but there is also a big chapter with 24 games with the King's Gambit.

Here is how Bronstein introduces that chapter: 'There is not a single true chess player in the world whose heart does not beat faster at the mere sound of such long beloved and familiar words as gambit games.'

And later, about the King's Gambit: 'Why such delight, such worship, so much love? No other opening offers such wide possibilities for the emergence of creative initiative; in no other opening are so many difficult and confusing problems created in the very first moves; no other opening moves allow the players to confront each other straight away, without preparatory reconnaissance, in open fighting, and to unfold the most fascinating battle over the whole of the board.'

And finally: 'It is no secret that any talented player must in his soul be an artist, and what should be dearer to his heart and soul than the victory of the subtle forces of reason over crude material strength? Probably everyone has his own reason for liking the King's Gambit, but my love for it can be seen in precisely those terms.'

A noble manifesto, but does it work? For Bronstein it worked wonders. In my database – obviously incomplete for the pre-computer era – I found, after excluding some blitz games and a game against a computer, that Bronstein had scored +21 =8 –4 as White with the King's Gambit, with a performance rating of 2638, while his average rating at the time of playing had been 2500. It is comparable with Boris Spassky's fantastic score in classical games with the King's Gambit: +15 =10 –0.

In the introduction to his famous game as Black against Spassky (Soviet championship, Leningrad 1960), which would later be used in the opening scene of the James Bond film *From Russia with Love*, Bronstein writes 'It was the devil who prompted me to reply 1...e5??' Apparently by giving Spassky the opportunity to play the King's Gambit, Bronstein had already sealed his fate.

> 'If you're not Spassky or Bronstein, the sensation of impending chess death will often be followed by chess death itself.'

Rules, what rules?

The first game with the King's Gambit that Bronstein shows is one in which he was Black against Fyodor Duz-Khotimirsky and which he won in 19 moves. He tells us that after playing 2.f4, Duz said angrily: 'And I'm having no refusal! If you don't take the pawn I won't continue the game!' Bronstein was forced to oblige.

Several moves later Duz took back a move he had made and while the spectators gasped and the arbiters wanted to stop the clock, he shouted: 'What on earth is this? Look, I made a bad move and now I'm changing it for a good one. Rules, you say? To hell with your rules, this is chess.' And to Bronstein: 'Besides, you don't object?'

Bronstein confirmed that it would be his pleasure to continue the game with Duz's substitute move, and that's what happened. Apparently, such was the chivalrous spirit inspired by a King's Gambit.

Introducing another game, Bronstein writes: 'I liked to experience the sensation of impending chess death and... then find a hidden path to salvation.'

I recognize this feeling. The optimistic outlook of Charles Dickens's character Wilkins Micawber, who trusted that in dire straits something always 'will turn up', is a necessary attitude to play this gambit. And sometimes something will turn up miraculously, as in Spassky-Fischer, Mar del Plata 1960, when Fischer, after refuting Spassky's opening play, suddenly realized that he had gone wrong somewhere and was quite lost.

'I knew I was losing a piece, but just couldn't believe it. I had to play one more move to see if it was really true!' wrote Fischer in *My 60 Memorable Games*.

Well, that was Spassky, who with good reason could call himself the king of the King's Gambit. But if you're not Spassky or Bronstein, the sensation of impending chess death will often be followed by chess death itself.

How good is it really?

The most famous article about the King's Gambit is still Rudolf Spielmann's 'Vom Krankenlager des Königsgambits' (From the sickbed of the King's Gambit), originally written in 1924 for the magazine *Kagans Neueste Schachnachrichten*. Bronstein wrote that the article brought tears to his eyes.

After some bad experiences in the tournaments of Karlsbad and Mährisch-Ostrau, both in 1923, Spielmann saw his beloved opening mortally wounded from all sides. With John Shaw's book as my guide I tried to find out if his pessimism concurs with modern insights.

Partwise it doesn't. Spielmann feared the Falkbeer Counter-Gambit 1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 e4, which nowadays is considered dubious for Black. He also saw an advantage for Black after 2...♗c5, which is still considered a good move, but not one that should frighten White.

Spielmann's distrust of the Bishop

Hans Ree

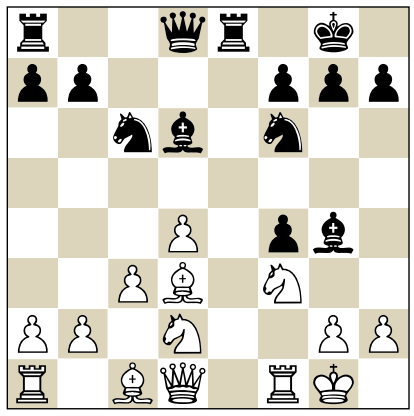
Gambit (1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♗c4) is shared by Shaw, though for a different reason. Shaw recommends 3...♘c6 (instead of the more common 3...♘f6 4.♘c3 c6, feared by Spielmann) and is unable to find equality for White, whereas Spielmann would gladly play the position after 4.♘f3 g5 5.d4, about which, contrary to the general spirit of his article, he was probably over-optimistic.

And then there is the so-called Modern Defence, 1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 d5 4.exd5 ♘f6. 'Modern' means here that it has only been popular for about a century. Spielmann, in 1924, thought it was good for Black, because even if White could get a queenside majority of four pawns against two, Black's 4-2 majority on the kingside would be more important. It would hem in White's bishop on c1, and eventually it would play a part in an attack against White's king. This reasoning still stands.

Shaw is a bit more optimistic about White's chances against this defence, but not very much. He analyses many lines for White, in most cases concluding that White will be hard put to show equality. His final recommendation for White is a line that does not yield equality – not a useful concept anyway when two 4-2 pawn majorities are struggling to come first – but rather an unclear game with chances for both sides.

KG 2.9 – C36
Sandor Gaal
Viktor Vass
Hungary 2000

Of course Shaw realizes that it's a bit suspect when the main game of an important chapter is a badly played game between two amateurs. He has chosen it because it shows the set-up for White that he recommends. Still, it's not a good sign that a more recent game by stronger players could not be found to illustrate White's chances.
1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 exf4 4.♘f3 ♘f6 5.♗b5+ c6 6.dxc6 ♘xc6 7.d4 ♗d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.c3 ♗g4 10.♘bd2 ♖e8 11.♗d3



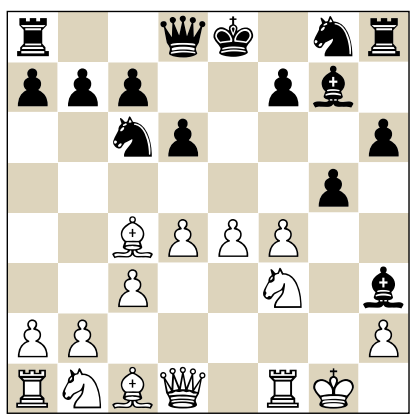
Shaw says that even though computers tend to favour Black slightly, because they can't appreciate the long-term asset of White's central pawns, White has equal chances. As White I would still be worried by the inactive bishop on c1, just as Spielmann was.

Old and maybe still best

And then there is the classical defence with 3.♘f3 g5, a golden oldie which might still be the greatest threat to the gambit. In Spielmann's article this is the one defence he was not afraid of.

KG 1.3 – C30
Rudolf Spielmann
Ernst Grünfeld
Karlsbad 1923

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♗c4 ♘c6 This is also Shaw's recommendation. **4.♘f3 g5 5.0-0** By transposition of moves an important line of the Knight's Gambit has been reached, which Shaw doesn't like for White. He wants to play such positions with White's bishop still on f1. **5...d6 6.d4 ♗g7 7.c3 h6 8.g3 ♗h3 9.gxf4**



One reason that Shaw doesn't like this for White is 9...♕d7, a move that has scored very well for Black. **9...♗xf1 10.♕xf1 gxf4 11.♗xf4 ♕f6 12.♗g3 0-0-0 13.♘bd2 ♘ge7 14.♕h3+ ♔b8 15.♖f1 ♕g6 16.♘h4 ♕g5 17.♘hf3 ♕g6 18.♘h4 ♕h7** After 18...♕g5 Spielmann would have made a draw by repetition. In the game he got a good attack, but after some errors he lost.

It is interesting that Spielmann was satisfied with his opening play, because he thought that rightfully there should have been a draw by repetition.

With all his obvious enthusiasm for the King's Gambit, Shaw is also happy when in his analysis he can show an interesting near-equilibrium. But shouldn't White try for an advantage? Not in the King's Gambit, where not being objectively worse is already an accomplishment.

King's Gambit players know that objectively an equal position full of pitfalls is the best White can hope for, and that there are two systems for Black against which equality for White is not easy to prove: the Modern Defence and the classical pawn-grab 1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 g5.

In the latter variation, Shaw is not fond of the traditional main line, the Kieseritzky gambit 4.h4 g4 5.♘e5. His main reason is that after 5...d6 6.♘xg4 ♘f6 his final verdict is that the position is equal and joyless. Joyless seems a bit severe, as he provides many fascinating variations.

Enter Captain Quaade

So if you don't really like 4.h4 (which equalizes, according to Shaw), what to do then? His recommendation against the classical defence is a variation that used to be considered a sideline, the Quaade Gambit, starting with 1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 g5 4.♘c3.

According to *The Oxford Companion to Chess*, D.L. Quaade was a Dutch sea-captain. A Dutch Captain Evans, you might say. Some years ago the Dutch player Henk Smout, who knows a lot about old openings, pointed out that Quaade wrote some

letters to the *Deutsche Schachzeitung*.

In November 1882 the editor Johannes Minckwitz acknowledged receipt of a letter by 'L.Q' from Oringe per Vordingborg. I found that Oringe was the name of a mental hospital in the Danish coastal town Vordingborg and wondered if this might be the reason that Minckwitz reacted rather curtly: 'You propose in the King's Gambit after 1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 g5 the move 4.♘c3. This might certainly, and maybe not unfavourably, be applied, but will need a thorough investigation.'

In April 1883, Minckwitz replied to another letter from Quaade which, like his first one, remained unpublished itself: 'We must refrain from checking the variations that you kindly shared with us.' Somehow Quaade must have managed to get his analysis published anyway.

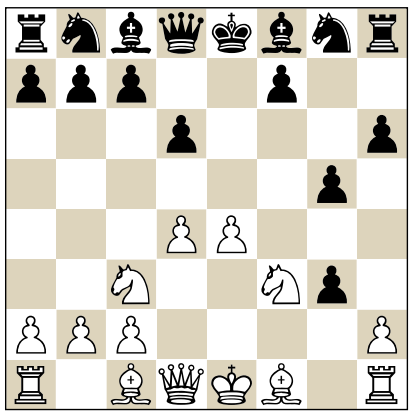
One game that Shaw gives to show sound play in this line – up to a point – is this one.

KG 2.1 – C30
Nigel Short
Luke McShane
London Chess Classic 2011

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 h6

This is known as Becker's Defence, but the way White reacts will bring us to the Quaade Gambit.

4.d4 g5 5.♘c3 d6 6.g3 fxg3

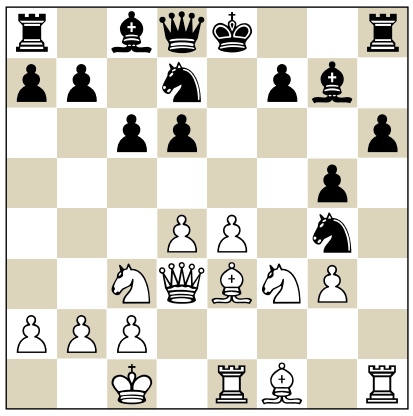


7.hxg3

Shaw also gives – but doesn't really recommend – the line 7.h4?! g4 8.♘g1, saying: 'For all that, this is not such a bad position, especially if you play for fun rather than money.' As supposedly money was involved at the London Classic, Short preferred to minimize his pawn losses.

7...♗g7 8.♗e3 ♘f6 9.♕d3 ♘g4 10.0-0-0 c6 11.♖e1 ♘d7

At this point Short is quoted: 'The only reason why the King's Gambit is playable is that Black has about ten different good lines, but he can only play one at a time. That's actually why it's OK.'



Here Short attacked prematurely with 12.e5, and after 12...dxe5 13.♗h3 ♘xe3 14.♖xe3 0-0 he didn't have enough for his two pawns. Shaw thinks that after 12.♗h3 or 12.♗g1 White would have enough play to claim full compensation.

Tartakower, Goethe and Shakespeare

In 2012 the traditional April Fool's hoax on chessbase.com had it that Vasik Rajlich, the maker of Rybka, had completely solved the King's Gambit by using a cluster of extremely powerful computers. His conclusion was said to be that after 1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 every third move by White led to a forced loss, except 3.♗e2, which was a forced draw.

A fine choice, I thought, for I had always liked Tartakower's 3.♗e2. In 2011 I played it in a serious game against the young Dutch IM Benjamin Bok, an interesting draw, and I have also played it in innumerable blitz games.

Now I see that Shaw refutes 3.♗e2 by 3...f5, after which White indeed has a miserable game.

No great matter, I thought, for I could still use Tartakower's move in another line: 1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 d5 4.exd5 ♘f6, and now 5.♗e2.

I liked White's position after 5...♘xd5 6.c4 ♘f6 7.d4, as I would get my pawn back. Why then play a gambit, when you're so happy to get your pawn back? Good question.

Anyway, Shaw recommends 6...♘e7, to protect f4 by 7.d4 ♘g6. Of course I had been aware of that possibility. Something will turn up, I had always thought. But what exactly? Shaw writes: 'White did not have much to show for his pawn in the game Arnason-Nei 1983.' Maybe (well, maybe...) just enough to grovel to a draw, I found when I played over that game.

By the way, looking for Tartakower's name in Bronstein's *200 Open Games*, I found a page titled Hypermodern Chess, which began: 'It was under such a garish title that the brilliant work of the world's best chess journalist, grandmaster S. Tartakower, came out more than forty years ago.'

Garish title? Now, really... But when you think about it, Bronstein was right. Hypermodern chess is a corny expression that really means very little. On the other hand, I think that this corny title contributed a lot to the appeal of the book.

Reading Bronstein on Tartakower I was reminded of something that the late Adriaan Roland Holst (nicknamed the Prince of Dutch poets) once said to Hein Donner. According to Holst, Goethe, though undoubtedly a great man, was not a first-rate writer, which was proven by the fact that he is so often quoted.

Apparently Holst found that an abundance of catchy dictums that stick in the mind of the general public was a sign of slight vulgarity. Well, vulgarity at the stratospheric heights of Goethe and Holst, of course.

I won't give up on Goethe or Tartakower, or on the even more often quoted Shakespeare, but this shows to what musings even the smallest dip into the depths of the King's Gambit may lead. ■

Alexander Ipatov

CURRENT ELO: 2584
DATE OF BIRTH: July 16, 1993
PLACE OF BIRTH: Lviv, Ukraine
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Lviv, Ukraine

What is your favourite colour?
Blue-garnet.

What food makes you happy?
Seafood paella.

And what drink?
Fresh orange juice.

Who is your favourite author?
Richard Branson (personal growth, learning how to think big), Robert Kiosaki (finance), Jules Verne (adventure), James Hadley Chase (thrillers).

What's the best book you ever read?
Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell and *The Gadfly* by Ethel Lilian Voynich.

What is your all-time favourite movie?
Titanic directed by James Cameron.

What is your favourite TV series?
I consider watching TV series as a waste of time.

Do you have a favourite actor?
Leonardo di Caprio.

And a favourite actress?
Let's say, Catherine Zeta-Jones.

What music do you like to listen to?
Romantic music.

Do you have a favourite painter?
Ivan Aivazovsky.

What was your best result?
The 2012 World Junior Championship, where I finished ahead of Richard Rapport and Ding Liren.

What was the best game you ever played?
Against Nils Grandelius in that championship, reminiscent of McDonnell-La Bourdonnais.

Who is your favourite chess player of all time?
Alexander Alekhine. He had a universal style and besides he was also a highly cultured personality.

Is there a chess book that had a profound influence on you?
From the classics I like the works of Alekhine and Botvinnik, from the moderns *Understanding Chess Endgames* by John Nunn.

What is the best chess country in the world?
Turkey. Chess became the number one sport in the country in terms of the number of licensed players.

What are chess players particularly good at (except for chess)?
Risk management, investments, understanding the true character of people.

Do you have any superstitions concerning chess?
I usually wear the same shirt or take the same pen if I'm doing well in a tournament.

Who or what would you like to be if you weren't yourself?
A baboon living in South Africa.

Which three people would you like to invite for dinner?
Napoleon Bonaparte, Richard Branson, Steve Jobs.

What is the best piece of advice you were ever given?
'If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?' – Steve Jobs.

Is there something you'd love to learn?
How to score penalties in FIFA! I'm kicking either too hard or too weak... ☺

Where is your favourite place in the world?
Cape Town, South Africa.

What is your greatest fear?
To end up my life alone.

How do you relax?
Watching Barça matches or looking for real adventure with my friends. Like the ones I just had in Cape Town! Swimming in the ocean, shark cage diving, co-piloting a 2-seat aircraft…

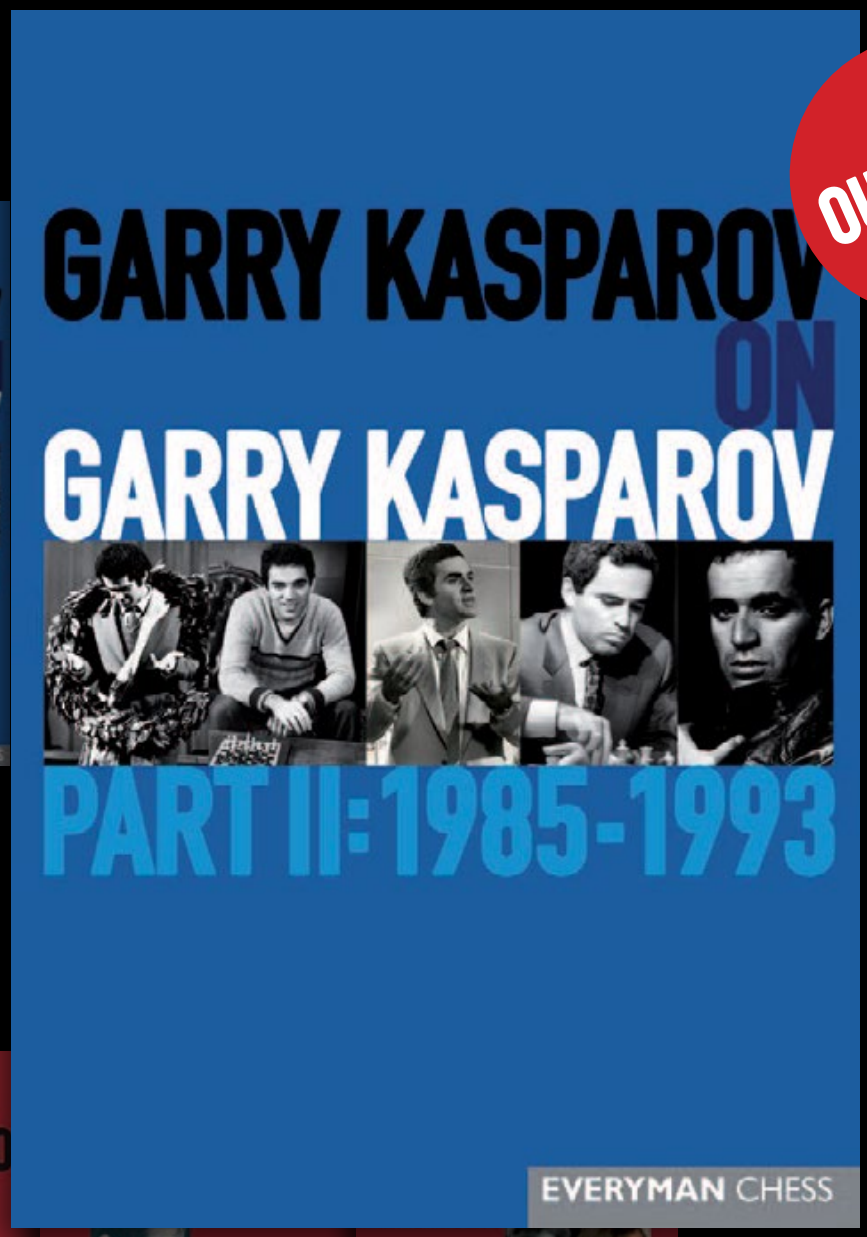
If you could change one thing in the chess world, what would it be?
If I were FIDE President, I would try to sign long-term contracts with international corporations and hire top-class marketing directors to organize chess events and get them publicized.

What is the stupidest rule in chess?
The draw offer, of course!

What will be the nationality of the 2050 chess world champion?
.exe ☺

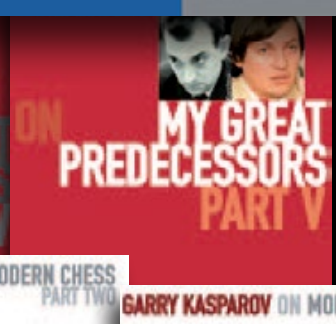
What is the best thing that was ever said about chess?
'I don't believe in psychology. I believe in good moves.' – Bobby Fischer.

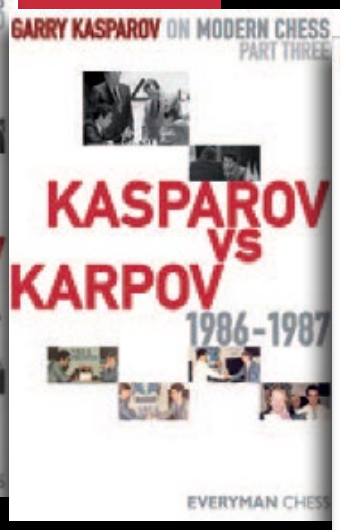
THE GREATEST CHESS STORY EVER TOLD CONTINUES...

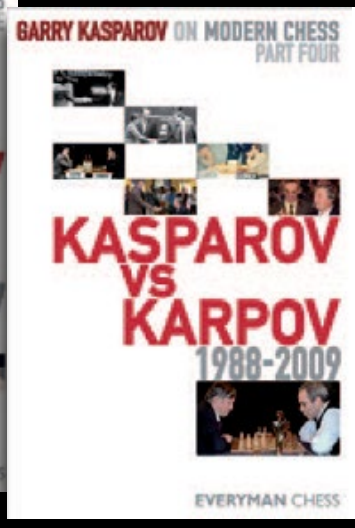


OUT NOW

€34.95 | 496 PAGES | HARDCOVER







AVAILABLE FROM WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM AND OTHER SPECIALIST RETAILERS

EVERYMAN CHESS

www.everymanchess.com

ICC

Anytime Anywhere

No download! · No installation! · No hassles!

Test drive ICC's new WEB-BASED interface

web.chessclub.com

Join ICC and use the Coupon: WEB
Get 10% off any membership plan!

ICC
Internet Chess Club
www.chessclub.com

Where the GrandMasters play!